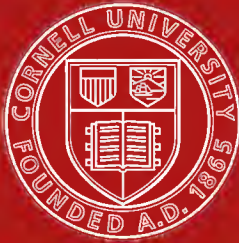


THE NEW YORK EVENING POST  
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

1801 → NOVEMBER SIXTEENTH → 1901



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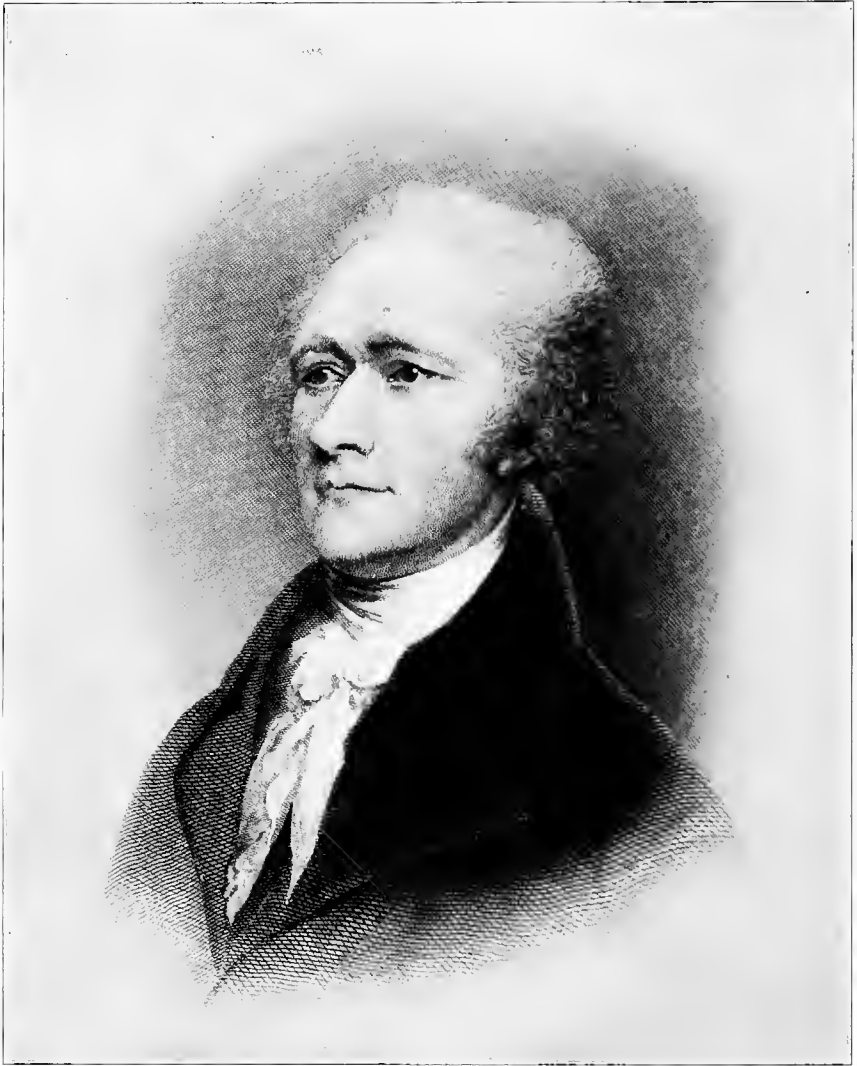








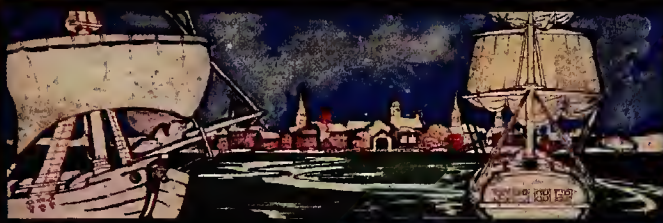




ALEXANDER HAMILTON

One of the founders of The Evening Post





**The Evening Post**  
**Hundredth**  
**Anniversary**  
**November 16**  
**1801—1901**



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PATTESON PRESS  
NEW YORK

## *Preface*



THE Evening Post celebrated, on November 16, 1901, its hundredth anniversary. For this occasion a special number was issued, consisting of three regular sections of the newspaper, a fac-simile of the first number, and an illustrated magazine supplement with a colored cover. The history of the Evening Post from 1801 to 1851 was condensed from an account written by William Cullen Bryant for the semi-centennial celebration of 1851; the history of the next three decades was covered by John Bigelow and Parke Godwin, both connected for many years with the newspaper; and the history since the change in ownership in 1881, when the Evening Post passed into the hands of Henry Villard, by Carl Schurz and by the present editor, Horace White. It had been hoped that Edwin L. Godkin would be able to give some account of his noteworthy services as editor from 1883 to 1899, but he was prevented by ill-health from sending more than a few words of kindly greeting. In addition to the history of the newspaper, a number of present and former members of the staff, among them Charlton T. Lewis, William A. Linn, Watson R. Sperry, J. Ranken Towse, F. E. Leupp, and Clarence Deming, contributed interesting reminiscences. There were also articles on the social and business conditions

of New York City a century ago, on the literary history of the *Evening Post*, and on early journalism in New York and other large American cities.

Aside from the publication of this centennial number, the anniversary day was marked by an event of much interest to all friends of the newspaper—the luncheon at which a number of the foremost citizens of New York entertained the Trustees and members of the editorial staff in the library of the Equitable Building. The Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, who presided, and Carl Schurz, St. Clair McKelway, Andrew Carnegie, James C. Carter, Joseph C. Hendrix, Archbishop Corrigan, Presidents J. G. Schurman, of Cornell, and Francis L. Patton, of Princeton, made addresses, and Horace White, Wendell Phillips Garrison, and Oswald Garrison Villard responded on behalf of the *Evening Post*. In the evening the Trustees gave a dinner at the Hardware Club to the one hundred and eighty employees of the newspaper.

This memorial volume contains a selection of the more important matters in the centennial issue and a complete account of the proceedings at the luncheon. In publishing this book, the Editor acknowledges indebtedness to Philip G. Hubert, Jr., whose skill as a writer and editor was shown in every page of the centennial issue, to the artists Taber Sears, Thomas Sindelar, and Brown & Williams, and to all others, employees and friends of the *Evening Post*, whose generous expenditure of time and energy contributed so much to the success of the anniversary.

# A Brief History of the Evening Post

*The First Half Century*

BY WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

THE first number of the Evening Post was issued on the 16th of November, 1801. The contrast between the Evening Post of 1801 and that of to-day is no more extraordinary than the contrast between the New York of that period and of the present. It was then a city of 60,000 inhabitants. Steam, electricity, gas, railways, steam-boats, water-mains, sewers, public schools, and uniformed policemen and firemen were unknown. The first copy of the Evening Post was printed on a hand-press such as Franklin used. In 1851, for the semi-centennial of the Evening Post, Mr. Bryant prepared the following account of the first half century of the newspaper's existence. It appeared in the Evening Post, November 15, 1851 :

On the 15th inst. closed the first half century of the Evening Post. It may not be without entertainment to our readers, and, perhaps, not entirely without instruction, if we now take a brief survey of its past history ; in other words, if we write the Life of the Evening Post.

The first number of the Evening Post appeared on the 16th of November, 1801, printed on a sheet a little more than a quarter of the present size of the journal. It was established by William Coleman, a barrister from Massachusetts, then in the prime of manhood, who had won the good will of the distinguished Federalists of that day—Ham-

ilton, King, Jay, and many others, worthy by their talents and personal character to be the associates of these eminent men. They saw in Mr. Coleman a combination of qualities which seemed to fit him for the conductor of a daily political



WILLIAM COLEMAN

Editor of *The Evening Post*, 1801-29

paper in those times of fervid and acrimonious controversy, and several of the most public-spirited of them furnished him the means of entering upon the undertaking.

Mr. Coleman was a man of robust make, of great appearance of physical strength, and of that temperament which some physiologists call the sanguine. He was fond of pleasure, but capable of exertion when the occasion required it, and, as he was not disinclined to controversy, the occasion often arose. His temper was generous and sincere, his manners kind

and courteous; he was always ready to meet more than half way the advances of an enemy; a kind or appealing word disarmed his resentment at once, and a pitiful story, even though a little improbable, always moved his compassion. He delighted in athletic exercises before his health failed, and while yet residing in Massachusetts is said, in Buckingham's *Reiniscences*, to have skated in an evening from Greenfield to Northampton, a distance of twenty miles. He was naturally courageous, and having entered into a

dispute, he never sought to decline any of its consequences. His reading lay much in the lighter literature of our language, and a certain elegance of scholarship which he had the reputation of possessing was reckoned among his qualifications as a journalist.

The original prospectus of the Evening Post, though somewhat measured in its style, was well written. The editor, while avowing his attachment to the Federal party, acknowledges that "in each party are honest and virtuous men," and expresses his persuasion that the people need only to be well informed to decide public questions rightly. He seems to contemplate a wider sphere of objects than most secular newspapers of the present day, and speaks of his design "to inculcate just principles in religion," as well as in "morals and politics." Some attempt was made to carry out this intention. In one of the earlier numbers is a communication in reply to a heresy avowed by the American Citizen, a Democratic daily paper of that time, in which it had been maintained that the soul was material, and that death was a sleep of the mind as well as the body. Still later, in an editorial article, appeared a somewhat elaborate discussion of the design of the Revelation of St. John.



WILLIAM LEGGETT,

Assistant Editor of The Evening Post, 1829-36



New York, at that time, contained little more than sixty thousand inhabitants, and scarcely extended north of the City Hall and its park. Beyond, along Broadway, were then country houses and green fields. That vast system of foreign and internal intercourse, those facilities of communication by sail, by steamers, by railways, the advertisements of which now fill column after column in our largest daily newspapers, was not then dreamed of; and the few ships and sloops soliciting freight and passengers did not furnish advertisements enough to fill a single column in the small sheet of the *Evening Post*. Yet the names which appear in the advertisements of its very first number indicate a certain permanence in the mercantile community.

Among the advertisements in the early numbers of the paper are some which show that the domestic slave trade was then in existence in the State of New York. In one, "a young negro woman, twenty-one years of age," "capable of all kinds of work, and an excellent cook," was offered for sale, "for want of employment." A black woman, "twenty-six years of age, and a good cook," was offered for sale "on reasonable terms." The advertisers seem to have been willing to avoid publicity in this matter, for no names are given; but in the first of these cases the purchaser is referred to the printer, and in the other the name of the street and number of the house at which application is to be made are given.

In the outset, Mr. Coleman made an effort to avoid those personal controversies which at the time were so common among conductors of party papers, and with which their columns were so much occupied. In the leading article of his first number, signed with his initials, he expresses his abhorrence of "personal virulence, low sarcasm, and verbal contentions with printers and editors," and his determination not to be diverted from "the line of temperate discussion." He found this resolution difficult to keep.

The Evening Post of the 24th of November records the death of Philip Hamilton, eldest son of Gen. Alexander Hamilton, in the twentieth year of his age—"murdered," says the editor, "in a duel." The practice of duelling is then denounced as a "horrid custom," the remedy for which must be "strong and pointed legislative interference," inasmuch "as fashion has placed it on a footing which nothing short of that can control." The editor himself belonged to the class with which fashion had placed it upon that footing, and was destined himself to be drawn by her power into the practice he so strongly deprecated.

Cheetham then edited the Citizen. On the next day, in a discussion occasioned by the duel in which young Hamilton fell, he mentioned Cheetham, and spoke of "the insolent vulgarity of that base wretch." At a subsequent period, the Evening Post went so far as, in an article reflecting severely upon Cheetham and Duane, to admit the following squib into its columns:

" Lie on, Duane, lie on for pay,  
And Cheetham, lie thou too :  
More against truth you cannot say  
Than truth can say 'gainst you."

These wranglings were continued a few years, until the Citizen made a personal attack upon Mr. Coleman of so outrageous a nature that he determined to notice it in another manner. Cheetham was challenged. He was ready enough in a war of words, but he had no inclination to pursue it to such a result. The friends of the parties interfered; a sort of truce was patched up, and the Citizen consented to become more reserved in its future assaults.

A subsequent affair, of a similar nature, in which Mr. Coleman was engaged, was attended with a fatal termination. A Mr. Thompson had a difference with him which ended in a challenge. The parties met in Love Lane, now Twenty-first Street, and Thompson fell. He was brought, mortally

wounded, to his sister's house in town; he was laid at the door, the bell was rung, the family came out, and found him bleeding and near his death. He refused to name his antagonist, or give any account of the affair, declaring that



PARK ROW IN 1801, FROM THE SITE OF THE PRESENT FRANKLIN STATUE

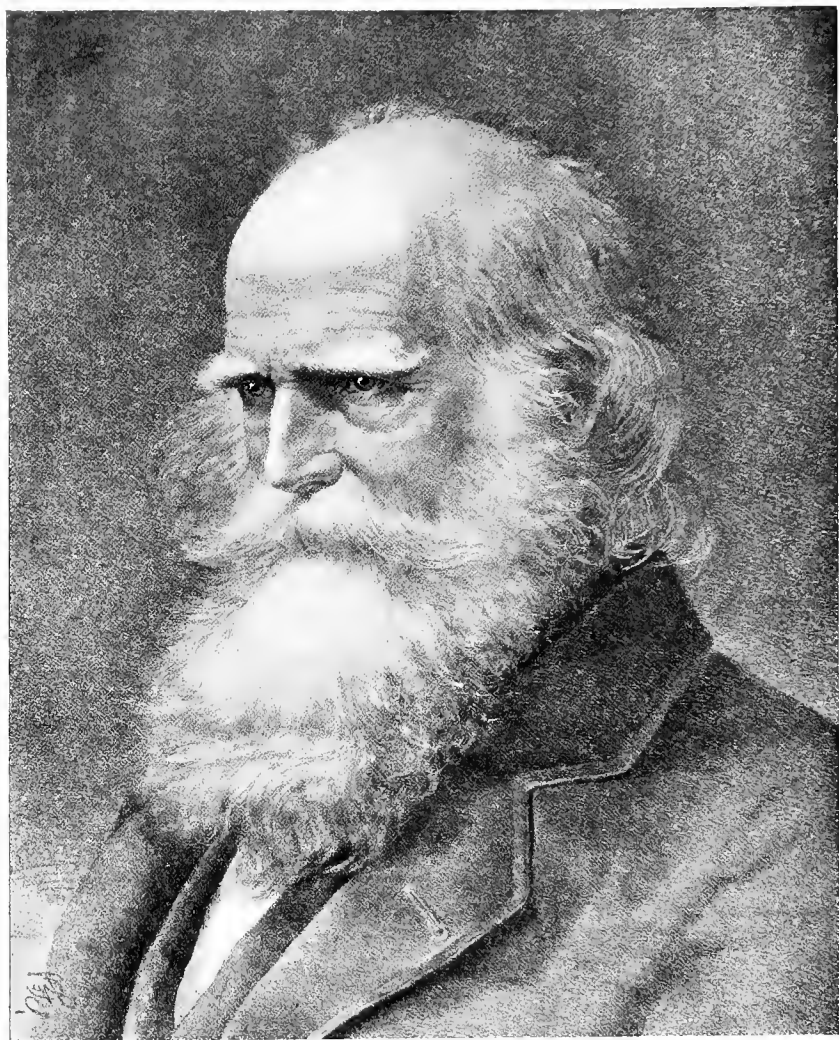
everything which had been done was honorably done, and desired that no attempt should be made to seek out or molest his adversary. Mr. Coleman returned to New York and continued to occupy himself with his paper as before.

When the Evening Post was established, William Dunlap,

author of a 'History of the Arts of Design,' and a 'History of the American Stage,' whose books are in the hands of many of our readers, and whose paintings, after he returned to his original profession as an artist, many of them have seen, was manager of the Park Theatre. At that time the fashionable part of the New York population were much more frequent in their attendance to the theatre than now, and the *Evening Post* contained frequent theatrical criticisms, written with no little care, and dwelling at considerable length on the merits and faults of the performers. Public concerts were also criticised with some minuteness. Still lighter subjects sometimes engaged the attention of the editor. In 1802 the styles of the ladies' dresses were such as to call forth, in certain quarters, remarks similar to those which are now often made on the Bloomer costume. On the 18th of May, 1802, the *Evening Post*, answering a female correspondent who asks why it has not, like the other newspapers, censured the prevailing mode, says :

"Female dress of the modern Parisian cut, however deficient in point of the ornament vulgarly called clothing, must at least be allowed to be not entirely without its advantages. If there is danger of its making the gentlemen too prompt to advance, let it not be unobserved that it fits the lady to escape. Unlike the dull drapery of petticoats worn some years since, but now banished to the nursery or kitchen, the present light substitute gives an air of celerity which seems to say—Catch me if you can."

In the *Evening Post*, during the first twenty years of its existence, there is much less discussion of public questions by the editors than is now common in all classes of newspapers. The editorial articles were mostly brief, with but occasional exceptions, nor does it seem to have been regarded, as it now is, necessary for a daily paper to pronounce a prompt judgment on every question of a public nature the moment it arises. The annual message sent by Mr. Jefferson



BRYANT AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY-FIVE

to Congress in 1801 was published in the *Evening Post* of the 12th of December, without a word of remark. On the 17th, a writer who takes the signature of Lucius Crassus begins to examine it. The examination is continued through the whole winter, and finally, after having extended to eighteen numbers, is concluded on the 8th of April. The resolutions of General Smith for the abrogation of discriminating duties, laid before Congress in the same winter, were published without comment, but a few days afterwards they were made the subject of a carefully written animadversion, continued through several numbers of the paper.

Mr. Coleman had no skill as a manager of property ; he took little thought for the morrow ; when he happened to have any money, it was spent freely, or given away, or somebody who would never return it contrived to borrow it. In a short time the finances of the *Evening Post* became greatly confused and embarrassed. From its first appearance, the journal bore, in a card at the bottom of its final column, the name of Michael Burnham as the printer and publisher ; he had, however, no property in the paper. Mr. Burnham was a young printer from Hartford, in Connecticut, a man of sense, probity, and decision, industrious and frugal, with an excellent capacity for business ; in short, he was just such a man as every newspaper ought to have among its proprietors, in order to insure its prosperity. The friends of Mr. Coleman saw the importance of associating Mr. Burnham with him in the ownership of the paper, and negotiations were opened for the purpose. The result was, that the entire control of the finances of the *Evening Post* was placed in Mr. Burnham's hands, under such regulations as were prescribed in the articles of copartnership. From that time the affairs of the journal became prosperous ; it began to yield a respectable revenue ; Mr. Coleman was relieved from his pecuniary embarrassments and Mr. Burnham began to grow rich. He died in the beginning of 1836, worth \$200,000, acquired partly

by his prudent management of the concerns of the paper, and partly by the rise in the value of real estate. Mr. Coleman died in 1829, worth, perhaps, a quarter of that sum.

About the year 1819, the health of Mr. Coleman was

seriously affected by a paralytic attack. Until then he had found no occasion for a coadjutor in his labors as an editor. Several slighter shocks followed; his lower limbs became gradually weak and unmanageable, until he was wholly unable to walk without support. Different assistants were called in from time to time, but they were again dismissed as soon as Mr. Coleman was able to be in his chair. It was while he was in this condition that an affair took place which was thought by his friends to have greatly impaired his health. A person named



BRYANT AT THE AGE OF FORTY

(From Inman's Painting)

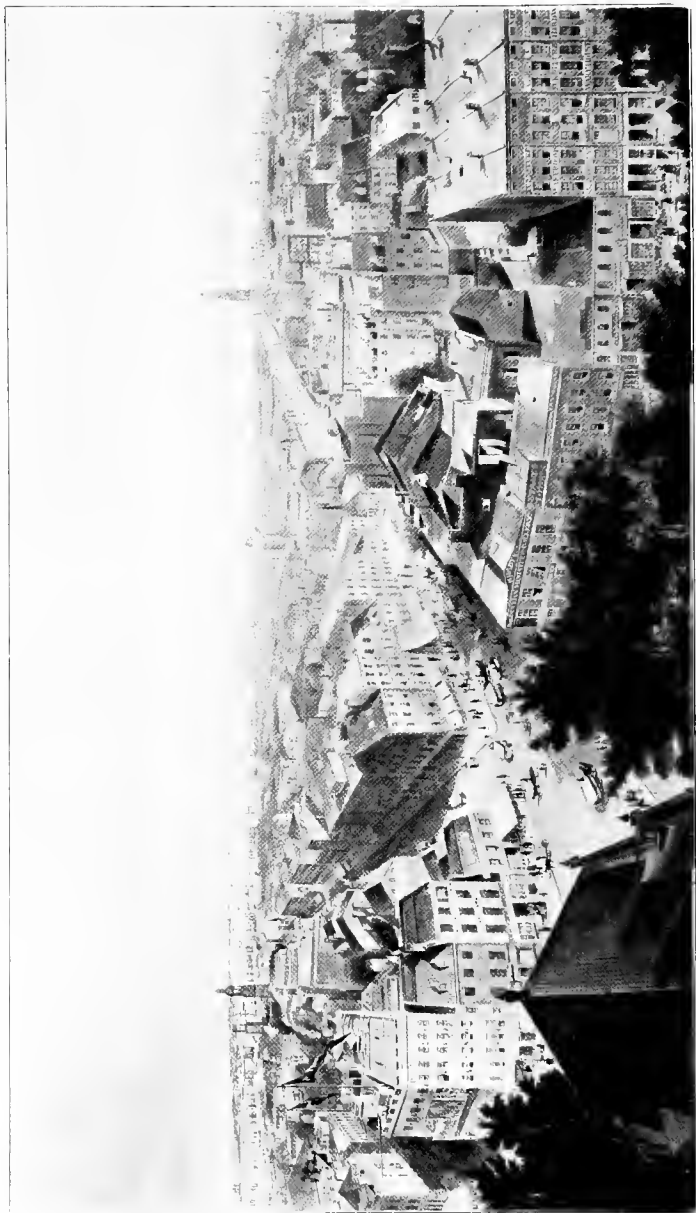
Hagerman, holding a public office, had been guilty of some improper conduct at one or two hotels in the interior of the State. The story was a nauseous one, but Mr. Coleman, thinking that such behavior deserved public exposure, gave it with all its particulars in his sheet. Hagerman was furiously enraged, and having no other answer to make, watched his opportunity, while Mr. Coleman was driving to his office in a little wagon, fell upon him with a cane, and beat him



so severely that he was obliged to keep his room for a considerable time.

This period of the existence of the Evening Post was illuminated by the appearance of the poems of Halleck and Drake in its columns, under the signatures of Croaker and Croaker & Co., in which the fashions and follies, and sometimes the politicians of the day, were made the subjects of a graceful and good-natured ridicule. The numbers containing these poems were eagerly sought for; the town laughed, the subjects of the satire laughed in chorus, and all thought them the best things of the kind that were ever written; nor were they far wrong. At a subsequent period, within the last twenty-five years, another poem, which, though under a different signature, might be called the epilogue to the Croakers, was contributed by Mr. Halleck to the paper. It was addressed to the Hon. Richard Riker, Recorder, better known as Dick Riker.

It was in the year 1826, a quarter of a century from the first issue of the Evening Post, that William C. Bryant, now one of its conductors, began to write for its columns. At that time the population of New York had grown from 60,000, its numeration in 1801, to 180,000. The space covered with houses had extended a little beyond Canal Street, and on each side of Broadway a line of dwellings, with occasional vacant spaces, had crept up as far as Fourth Street. Preparations were making to take up the monuments in the Potter's Field, now the site of Washington Square, and fill it up to the level of Fourth Street. Workmen were employed in opening the street now called St. Mark's Place, and a dusty avenue had just been made through the beautiful farm of the old Governor Stuyvesant, then possessed by his descendants. The sheet of the Evening Post had been somewhat enlarged, the number of its advertisements had been doubled since its first appearance, they were more densely printed, and two columns of them were steamboat advertisements. But the



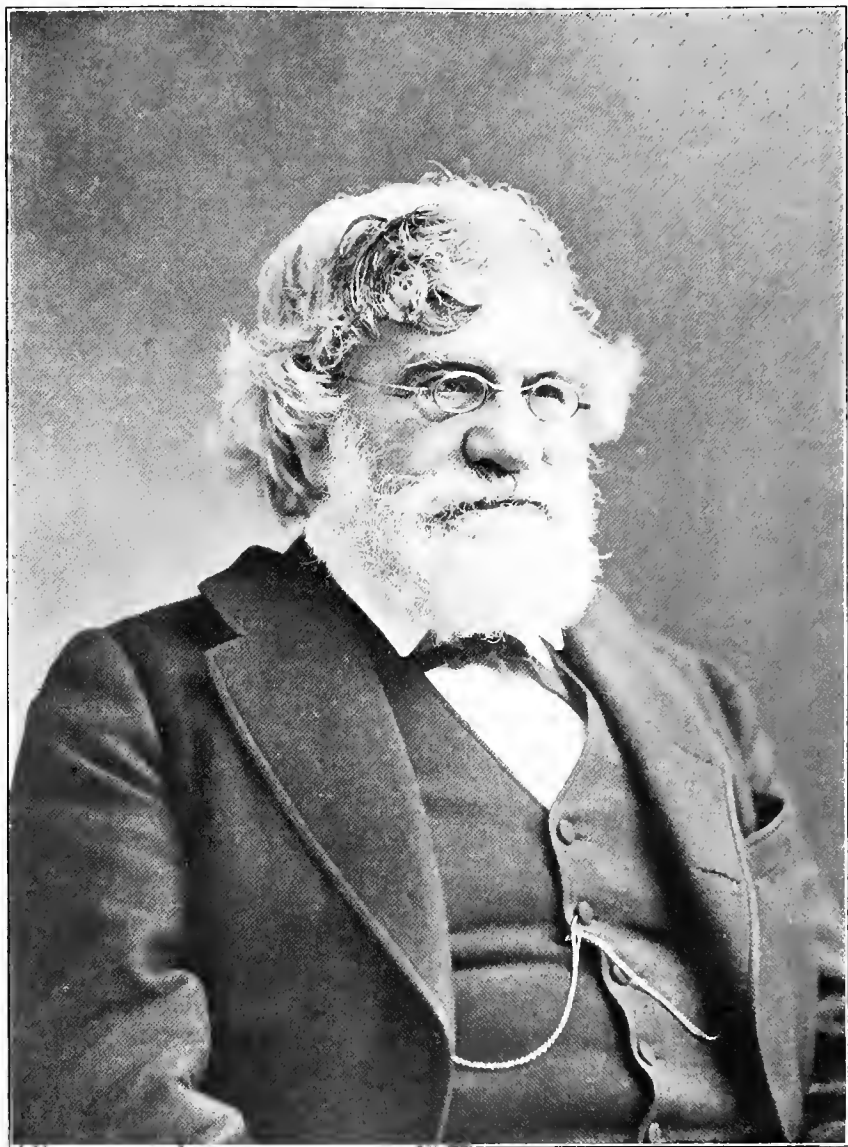
VIEW OF BROADWAY FROM ST. PAUL'S STEEPLE, 1848

eye, in running over a sheet of the Evening Post printed at that time, misses the throng of announcements of public amusements, lectures, concerts, and galleries of pictures that now solicit the reader's attention; the elaborately displayed advertisements of the rival booksellers, of whom there are now several houses, any one of which publishes yearly a greater number of works than all the booksellers of New York then did; the long lists of commercial agencies and expresses, and the perpendicular rows of cuts of ships, steamboats, and railway engines which now darken the pages of our daily sheet.

The Evening Post at that time was much occupied with matters of local interest, the sanitary condition of the city, the state of its streets, its police, its regulations of various kinds, in all of which its conductors took great interest. There was little of personal controversy at that time in its columns.

The personal appearance of Mr. Coleman at that period of his life was remarkable. He was of a full make, with a broad chest, muscular arms, which he wielded lightly and easily, and a deep-toned voice; but his legs dangled like strings. He expressed himself in conversation with fluency, energy, and decision, particularly when any subject was started in which he had taken an interest in former years. When, however, he came at that period of his life to write for the press, he had the habit of altering his first draught in a manner to diminish its force, by expletives and qualifying expressions. He never altered to condense and strengthen, but almost always to dilute and weaken.

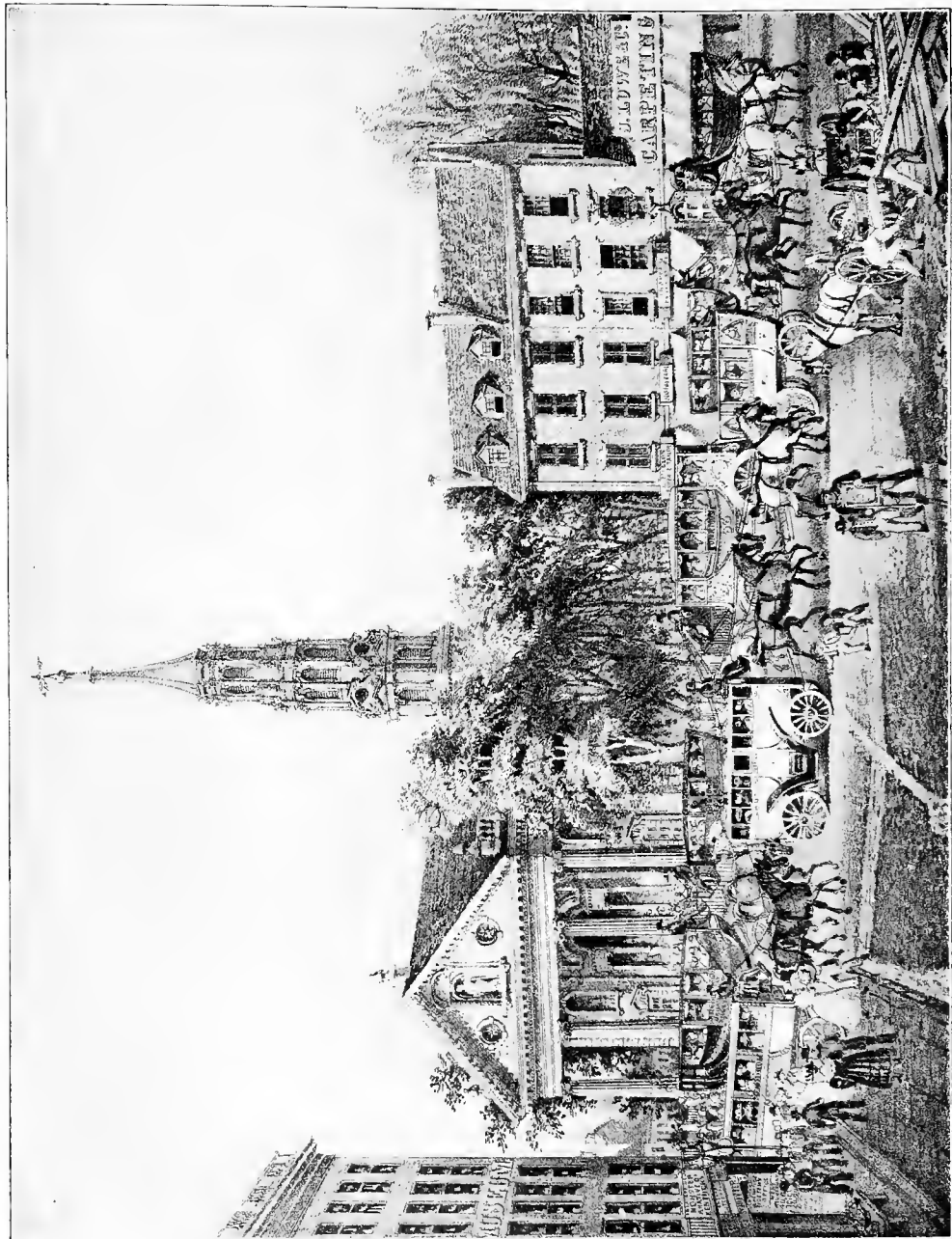
Immediately after Mr. Bryant became connected with the Evening Post, it began to agitate the question of free trade. The next year he became one of the proprietors of the paper. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Burnham, who desired to avail themselves of the activity and energy of younger minds, offered at the same time a share in the paper to Robert C. Sands, a



PARKE GODWIN, MANAGING EDITOR 1836-1865, EDITOR 1878-81

man of wit and learning, whose memory is still tenderly cherished by numbers who had the good fortune to know him personally. He entertained it favorably at first, but finally declined it. A majority of both houses of Congress were in favor of protective duties, and the Evening Post, at that time, was the only journal north of the Potomac which attempted to controvert them. In the northern part of the Union it was only in certain towns on the seacoast that a few friends of a freer commercial system were found; the people of the interior of the Atlantic States and the entire population of the West seemed to acquiesce, without a scruple, in the policy of high duties. The question of modifying the tariff so as to make it more highly protective was brought up before Congress in the winter of 1828, and on the 19th of May following a bill prepared for that purpose became a law. It was warmly opposed in the Evening Post, and the course of Mr. Webster, who had formerly spoken with great ability against protection, but who had now taken his place among its supporters, was animadverted upon with some severity. That gentleman, in a letter to Mr. Coleman, justified his conduct by saying that the protective system was now the established policy of the country, and that, taking things as they were, he had only endeavored to make this system as perfect and as equally beneficial to every quarter of the Union as was possible.

In contending against the doctrine of protection, the Evening Post gradually fell into a position of hostility to the Administration of Mr. Adams, by which that doctrine was zealously maintained. In the election of 1828, it took the field in favor of the nomination of General Jackson, who had declared himself in favor of a "judicious tariff," by which his friends understood a mitigation of the existing duties. Mr. Coleman lived to see the triumph of his party, and to hear the cheers of the exulting multitude at his door. In the summer following, the summer of 1829, he was cut off by an



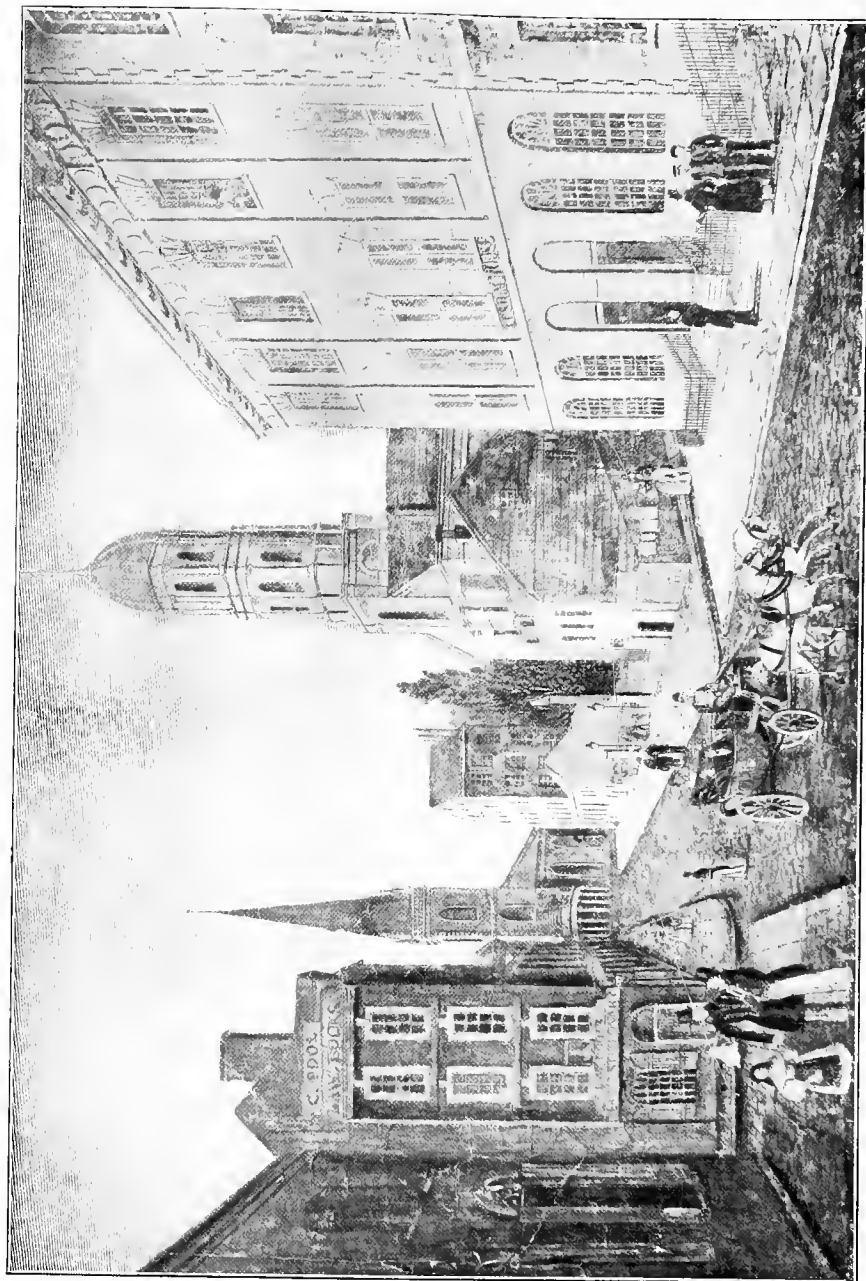
BROADWAY AND ANN STREET, 1830

apoplectic stroke. William Leggett, who had earned a reputation for talent and industry by his conduct of the Critic, a weekly journal, several of the last numbers of which were written entirely by himself, put in type with his own hand, and delivered by himself to the subscribers, was immediately employed as an assistant editor. He only stipulated that he should not be asked to write articles on political subjects, on which he had no settled opinions, and for which he had no taste—a dispensation which was readily granted. Before this year was out, however, he found himself a zealous Democrat, and an ardent friend of free trade, and in the year 1830 became one of the proprietors of the paper.

Mr. Leggett was a man of middle stature, but compact frame, great power of endurance, and a constitution naturally strong, though somewhat impaired by an attack of the yellow fever while on board the United States squadron in the West Indies. He was fond of study and delighted to trace principles to their remotest consequences, whither he was always willing to follow them. The quality of courage existed in him almost to excess, and he took a sort of pleasure in bearding public opinion. He wrote with surprising fluency, and often with eloquence, took broad views of the questions that came before him, and possessed the faculty of rapidly arranging the arguments which occurred to him in clear order, and stating them persuasively.

The acts of General Jackson's Administration brought up the question of the power of the Federal Government to make public roads within the limits of the different States, and the question of renewing the charter of the United States Bank. With what zeal he was supported by the Evening Post, in his disapproval of the works of "internal improvement," as they were called, sanctioned by Congress, and in his steady refusal to sign the bills presented to him for continuing the United States Bank in existence, many of our readers doubtless remember. The question of national roads,





WALL STREET ABOUT 1785

The Custom-house, on the right, stood on the site of the present Sub-Treasury

after some sham controversy, was disposed of finally, perhaps, and for ever; the contest for the existence of the National Bank was longer and more stubborn, but the popular voice decided it, at last, in favor of the President.

Those who recollect what occurred when General Jackson withdrew the funds of the Government from the Bank of the United States, a measure known by the name of the removal of the deposits, cannot have forgotten to what a pitch party hatred was then carried. It was a sort of fury; nothing like it had been known in this community for twenty years, and there has been nothing like it since. Men of different parties could hardly look at each other without gnashing their teeth; deputations were sent to Congress to remonstrate with General Jackson, and some even talked—of course it was mere talk, but it showed the height of passion to which men were transported—of marching in arms to the seat of government and putting down the Administration. A brief panic took possession of the money market; many worthy men really believed that the business and trade of the country were in danger of coming to an end, and looked to a universal ruin. In this tempest the Evening Post stood its ground, vindicated the Administration in its change of agents, on the ground that the United States Bank was unsafe and unworthy, and derided both the threats and the fears of the Whigs.

In June, 1834, Mr. Bryant sailed for Europe, leaving Mr. Leggett sole conductor of the Evening Post. Mr. Burnham had previously withdrawn as a proprietor, substituting his son in his place. The battle between the friends and enemies of the bank proceeded with little diminution of virulence, but the panic had passed away. The Evening Post was led by the discussion of the bank question to inquire into the propriety of allowing the State banks to exist as monopolies, with peculiar powers and prerogatives not enjoyed by individuals. It demanded a general banking law, which should place on an equal footing every person desirous of

engaging in the business of banking. It attacked the patronage of the Federal Executive, and insisted that the postmasters should be chosen by the people in the neighborhoods in which they ministered. A system of oppressive inspection laws had gradually grown up in the State—tobacco was inspected, flour was inspected, beef and pork were inspected, and a swarm of creatures of the State Government was called into being, who subsisted by fees exacted from those who bought and sold. Nobody was allowed to purchase an uninspected or untaxed barrel of flour, or an uninspected and untaxed plug of tobacco. The Evening Post renewed its attacks on the abuse, which had previously been denounced in its columns, and called for the entire abrogation of the whole code of inspection laws. The call was answered some years afterwards, when the subject was taken up in earnest by the Legislature, and the system broken up.

Meantime, another question had arisen. The Washington Telegraph had procured printed reports of the Abolition Society in New York, then a small body, and little known to the public, and extracting the most offensive passages, held them up to the people of the South as proofs of a deliberate design on the part of the North to deprive the planters of their slaves, without their consent and without remuneration. Other extracts followed from day to day, with similar inflammatory comments, till at length the Southern blood took fire, and the Southern merchants began to talk of ceasing to trade with New York. The New York commercial community disclaimed all sympathy with the abolitionists, and to prove its sincerity began to disturb their meetings. From slight disturbances the transition was easy to frightful riots, and several of these, in which the genteel mob figured conspicuously, occurred in the year 1835, at different places within the State. The meetings of the abolitionists were broken up, their houses were mobbed, and Arthur Tappan was obliged, for a while, to leave the city, where his person was not safe.

The Evening Post at first condemned the riots, and vindicated the right of assembling and the right of speech. As the mob grew more lawless, it took bolder ground, and insisted that the evil and the wrong of slavery were so great that the



WALL STREET, CORNER OF WILLIAM, 1801

(From 'The New Metropolis.' Copyright by D. Appleton & Co.)

abolitionists were worthy of praise and sympathy in striving for its extinction. It rang this doctrine from day to day in the ears of the rioters and their abettors, and confronted and defied their utmost malice. No offer was made, in the midst of all this excitement, to mob the office of this paper.

During Mr. Bryant's absence in Europe, the interest of the younger Burnham was purchased for his two associates, who thus became the sole proprietors.

In October, 1835, Mr. Leggett became seriously ill; he returned to his labors after a short interval; but a relapse came on, and confined him to a sick-room for months. Mr. Bryant returned in the spring of 1836 from Europe, and found him still an invalid, the editorial chair being ably filled, for the time, by Charles Mason, since distinguished as a lawyer in Iowa. He resumed his labors, and engaged in a controversy respecting the State banks, which was then at its height, and which continued to agitate the community till the adoption of a general banking law by the State, and of the independent treasury scheme by the Federal Government.

In the month of June, 1836, attempts were made in different parts of the State to compel journeymen to refrain from entering into any understanding with each other in regard to the wages they would demand of their employers. Twelve journeymen tailors were indicted in this city for the crime of refusing to work, except for a certain compensation, and a knot of journeymen shoemakers at Hudson. In this city, Judge Edwards—Ogden Edwards—and at Hudson, Judge Savage, laid down the law against the accused, pronouncing their conduct a criminal conspiracy, worthy of condign punishment. The Evening Post took up the charge of Judge Edwards almost as soon as it fell from his lips and showed its inconsistency with the plainest principles of personal freedom, with the spirit of all our institutions and laws, and with the rule by which we allow all employers and purchasers to regulate their transactions. The other journals of the city took a different view of the question, but the doctrine maintained by the Evening Post commended itself to the public mind, and is now the prevailing and universal one.

In October of the same year, Mr. Leggett, after a sojourn of some months in the country, returned to his office with his

health in part restored. His return led to an examination of the finances of the *Evening Post*, which had suffered very much during his illness. Its circulation, though lessened, was still respectable, but its advertising list was greatly diminished, and its income was not more than a quarter of what it had been. Some of its friends had been alienated by the vehemence with which the journal had attacked slavery and its defenders. The proprietors of steamboats and ships, and those who had houses to let, had withdrawn their advertisements, because no cuts designed to attract the attention of the reader, were allowed a place in its columns. Mr. Leggett, with an idea of improving the appearance of his daily sheet, had rigidly excluded them.

This examination led to the retirement of Mr. Leggett from the paper. He established a weekly sheet, the *Plain-dealer*, which he conducted for about a year with great ability, and which, but for the failure of his publisher, would have been highly successful, as was evident from the rapid increase of its circulation so long as it was published.

We have mentioned the short panic of 1834. It was followed by a season of extravagant confidence, and of delirious speculation, encouraged by all the banks—that of Mr. Biddle and the deposit banks co-operating in a mad rivalry—a season such as the country had never seen before. It might sound like a vain boast of superior discernment to say that the *Evening Post* insisted, all along, that the apparent prosperity of the country was but temporary, that its end was close at hand, and that it would be followed by a general collapse and by universal distress—but it is, nevertheless, true, and as we are writing the history of our journal, it must be said. The crash came quite as soon as the most far-sighted had anticipated, and thousands were ruined; the banks stopped payment, and the Legislature of New York, in a fright, passed a sort of stop law in their favor, absolving them from the engagement to pay their notes in specie.

Meantime, no means were left untried to bring back the paper to its former prosperous condition. William G. Boggs, a practical printer, and a man of much activity, was taken into the concern, first with a contingent interest, and in 1837 as a proprietor. The figures of steamboats, ships, and houses were restored to its columns, and nothing omitted which it was thought would attract advertisers. They came with some shyness at first, but at last readily and in great numbers. It required some time to arrest the decline of the paper, and still more to make it move in the desired direction, but when once it felt the impulse it advanced rapidly to its former prosperity.

The book press of the country about this time had begun to pour forth cheap reprints of European publications with astonishing fertility. Few works but those of English authors were read, inasmuch as the publisher, having nothing to pay for copyright to the foreign author, could afford to sell an English work far cheaper than an American one written with the same degree of talent and attractiveness. The Evening Post was early on the side of those who demanded that some remedy should be applied to this unequal operation of our copyright laws, which had the effect of expelling the American author from the book market. It placed no stress, however, on the scheme of an international copyright law, as it has been called, but consistently with its course on all commercial questions, insisted that if literary property is to be recognized by our laws, it ought to be recognized in all cities alike, without regard to the legislation of other countries; that the author who is not naturalized deserves to be protected in its enjoyment equally with the citizen of our republic, and that to possess ourselves of his books simply because he is a stranger is as gross an inhospitality as if we denied his right to his baggage, or the wares which he might bring from abroad to dispose of in our market.

The dispute between the friends of the credit system, as



they called themselves, and their adversaries continued till the scheme of making the Government the keeper of its own funds, instead of placing them in the banks, to be made the basis of discounts, was adopted by Congress. For this measure, which is now very generally acknowledged by men of all parties to have been one of the wisest ever taken by the Federal Government, and perhaps more wholesome in its effect on the money market than any other adopted before or since, the country is indebted to Mr. Van Buren's Administration, and to those who sustained it against the credit party. The *Evening Post* was one of the very earliest in the field among the champions of that scheme, and lent such aid as it was able in the controversy.

In 1840 it was engaged in the unsuccessful attempt to re-elect Mr. Van Buren. In the four years of that gentleman's Administration nearly all the disastrous consequences of the reaction from the speculations of the four previous years were concentrated. He and his friends applied what is now acknowledged to be the wisest remedy, the independent treasury scheme; but a sufficient time had not elapsed to experience its effects, and the friends of the credit system everywhere treated it as the most pernicious quackery. The Administration of Mr. Van Buren was made responsible for consequences which it had no agency in producing, and Gen. Harrison was elected to the Presidency.

We have now arrived at a period the history of which, we may presume, is so fresh in the memory of our readers that we need give no very circumstantial narrative of the part borne in the controversies of the time by the *Evening Post*. In this year, Parke Godwin, who for some time had been employed as an assistant on the paper, became one of its proprietors, and continued so until the year 1844, when the interest he held was transferred to Timothy A. Howe, a practical printer, who has ever since been one of the owners of the concern.

During the time that the Executive chair was filled by Mr. Tyler—for General Harrison passed so soon from his inauguration to his grave that his name will scarcely be noticed in history—several of the questions which formerly divided parties were revived. The question of the independent treasury had to be debated over again; the measure was repealed. The question of a national bank came up again in Congress, and we had to fight the battle a second time; the bill for creating an institution of this kind presented to Mr. Tyler was refused his signature and defeated. Mr. Tyler, however, had a dream of a peculiar national bank of his own; this also was to be combated. The compromise of 1832 in regard to duties on imported goods was set aside by Congress, without ceremony, and a scheme of high duties was proposed which resulted in the tariff of 1842. Here, also, was matter for controversy. The question of admitting Texas into the Union, which had several times before been discussed in the *Evening Post*, was brought before Congress. It was warmly opposed in this journal, which contended that if Texas was to be admitted at all, a negotiation should first be opened with Mexico. This was not done, but the result has shown that such a course would have been far the wisest. The eager haste to snatch Texas into the Union brought with it the war with Mexico, the shedding of much blood, large conquests, California, and those dreadful quarrels about slavery and its extension which have shaken the Union.

In 1848 Mr. Boggs parted with his interest in the *Evening Post* to John Bigelow; and William J. Tenney, who had been for some time past the able and useful assistant of Mr. Bryant, withdrew. The controversies which have since arisen are yet the controversies of the day; they still occupy all minds, and there is no occasion to speak of their nature nor of the part we have taken in them.

We have now brought our narrative down to the present moment. It does not become us to close without some

expression of the kindly feeling we entertain towards those subscribers—for there are still a few of them—who read the *Evening Post* in 1801, and who yet read it, nor to those—and there are many such—in whose families it is looked upon as a sort of heirloom and who have received a partiality for it as an inheritance from their parents. When these examples occur to our minds, we are consoled for the occasional displeasure and estrangement of those we had deemed our friends; and we think of our journal as of something solid, permanent, enduring.

This impression is strengthened when we reflect that in the mechanical department of the paper are men who came to it in their childhood, before any of the present proprietors of the paper had set foot within the office, and are employed here still.

An experience of a quarter of a century in the conduct of a newspaper should suffice to give one a pretty complete idea of the effect of journalism upon the character. It is a vocation which gives an insight into men's motives, and reveals by what influences masses of men are moved, but it shows the dark rather than the bright side of human nature, and one who is not disposed to make due allowances for the peculiar circumstances in which he is placed is apt to be led by it into the mistake that the large majority of mankind are knaves. It brings one perpetually in sight, at least, of men of various classes, who make public zeal a cover for private interest, and desire to avail themselves of the influence of the press for the prosecution of their own selfish projects. It fills the mind with a variety of knowledge relating to the events of the day, but that knowledge is apt to be superficial, since the necessity of attending to many subjects prevents the journalist from thoroughly investigating any. In this way it begets desultory habits of thought, disposing the mind to be satisfied with mere glances at difficult questions, and to dwell only upon plausible commonplaces.

# Reminiscences of Parke Godwin

*Managing Editor 1836-1865, Editor 1878-81*

**I**N talking over old days upon the Evening Post, Mr. Godwin remarked that very few persons would remember how distinguished a lot of men used to write for that newspaper half a century ago.

"I can remember," said he, "a score of men whose work gave great pleasure to our readers in those days, but, of course, most of them are now wholly forgotten by the public, and you would hardly find even their names in any list of American writers. Among the men whose names, however, are known to every one, I might mention among the early correspondents of the Evening Post, the distinguished French critic Sainte-Beuve, who wrote a good deal of correspondence for us at a time before the Atlantic cable had made European letters of less importance. Upon our regular local staff we had at one time or another Walt Whitman, who did reporting for us, and, if I remember rightly, wrote a number of letters from Washington at the beginning of the war. Artemus Ward also did some reporting for us, but I cannot remember its exact nature: it was, of course, before he attained fame as an American humorist. Bret Harte was on our staff for quite a while, and perhaps, as it is so very long ago, he will not object to my saying that I remember him chiefly for the difficulty with which I could get anything in the way of 'copy' out of him. He was remark-

ably regular at the office upon pay-days, but something too much of a Bohemian in other respects to fit in with our staid ways and manners. Mr. Harte ought to forgive me for saying this, especially as it was I who brought him to New York.

“Before the war the *Evening Post* was poorer than we allowed any one to believe, so poor that it often fell to my lot to go at the end of the week to some of our moneyed friends and raise the funds to pay off the staff and the composing-room on Saturday. Well, I had noticed in the San Francisco papers some sketches by Harte that took my fancy, and I proposed to bring him on to New York for Putnam’s Magazine, of which I was then one of the editors. But the magazine was not able to afford the salary that Bret Harte asked, and so work was found for him upon the *Evening Post*, where he wrote sketches and did some editorial writing, besides his work upon the magazine. James K. Paulding, Sidney Gay, Charles A. Briggs, Charles Nordhoff, Charlton T. Lewis, are among the other writers whose names occur to me. There was also, as literary critic upon the *Evening Post* for a number of years, John R. Thompson, a most delightful talker and writer, and an intimate friend of Poe’s. It was customary in those days, also, for a newspaper like the *Evening Post* to depend somewhat upon the occasional contributions of friends, politicians, lawyers, and business men, and in this way Mr. Bryant, who was not a politician or an editor by nature, but a scholar and a poet, received much valuable assistance and advice. Martin Van Buren, Silas Wright, Azariah Flagg, Michael Hoffman, Samuel J. Tilden, and John Randolph were all occasional contributors and constant visitors. Van Buren very seldom came to New York without dropping into the office and talking over national affairs. Among our local authorities was W. G. Blunt, whose pet interest was the harbor of New York and the city’s shipping. In the same field I might also mention Capt. John

Codman, who died a year or two ago, and whose many admirable letters will be remembered with pleasure by all the old readers of the Evening Post. Blunt was a man whose character rather fitted his name. I remember that one day he greeted in his bluff and hearty way William L. Marcy, who was the reverse in manner, and who drew himself up with the remark that Blunt had the advantage of him. 'Don't you know me?' exclaimed our old friend; 'my name is Blunt.' 'And so is your manner,' remarked Marcy as he walked away.

"I have mentioned that the Evening Post was a very small affair, so far as money went, in the days before the war. Our position upon the anti-slavery question was by no means a popular one with the merchants upon whom the New York papers depended largely for their support. Most of our importers were closely connected with the South, and, of course, our position brought us into disfavor with all their Southern customers. It was only when the tide turned that we rose, almost at a bound, into financial favor. After the first year of the war, all the bankers and speculators who had bonds to sell took our columns at any price we chose to ask. Our circulation was not large as compared with modern times, but toward the close of the war it was often limited only by the possibility of printing newspapers upon the rudimentary presses of those days. It was not, however, circulation that paid us, but the immense advertising patronage at high prices. The Evening Post became what it has since remained, the organ for the most exclusive and expensive advertising, that which appeals chiefly to well-to-do people and investors.

"The Government and its agents naturally thought well of the paper and made liberal use of it. Seward was one of our good friends. Talking of Seward reminds me of a little incident that cast a peculiar light upon how history is sometimes made. At one of the critical moments of the war, when McClellan, after losing a terrible number of men by

death and sickness in the Peninsula, was finally forced to retreat, the anti-Administration papers seized upon it as a text for criticising the Government and predicting final disaster. Seward happened to come at that time to the Astor House, and we went over to confer with him. I had private cipher letters from the front, describing the situation as desperate, and frankly told the Secretary what they contained. Upon the strength of those letters, we believe, and I still believe, that McClellan was forced back, and there was danger of a serious collapse. Seward insisted that the best possible face should be put upon the matter, and that McClellan's retreat should be termed a strategic movement of great brilliancy. It was finally decided, after a long conference, that so it should be called, and so it has gone down, more or less, into history.

“Chief among the good deeds to the credit of the old Evening Post, I ought to mention Mr. Bryant's suggestion of the creation of Central Park. As every one knows, Bryant was not only a lover of Nature and inordinately fond of trees and flowers, but a great walker. He delighted in roaming about the upper part of the city, which, of course, was then all country above Forty-second Street, or even Twenty-third Street. He knew intimately the part of the island where the park now is, and advocated over and over again the organization of a committee to lay out a great park before the land should become too valuable. His original scheme was to make the park include a strip from river to river, but this he afterwards modified, and contented himself with what was known as the Goose Pasture, some of the tract now occupied by the Central Park. It seems astonishing at this day that such a proposition met not only with criticism, but with the bitter opposition of people who considered a park such as Mr. Bryant proposed a reckless and wicked waste of public money. Another proposition first made by the Evening Post, which was not only criticised but mercilessly ridiculed, was to put

the city constables, the forerunners of our present policemen, into uniform. This had been done by Sir Robert Peel in London, and had been a success. When the Evening Post proposed it here, some of our critics said that we were following the Chinese custom of hunting criminals with a brass band. I believe that in China the watchman carries a big rattle, heard a long way off, so that the evildoer has plenty of time to get out of the way. Our New York critics thought that to put a policeman into uniform was to make him helpless, inasmuch as the malefactors could see him coming and make off. Nevertheless, the proposal was finally adopted when the old constabulary under Jacob Hayes gave way before the present system.

“The editorial force of the Evening Post in the days before the war was, of course, very small, for the amount of editorial writing and of news matter in comparison to the advertising columns would be to-day considered insignificant. One long editorial article a day was deemed sufficient, and when no such article happened to be on hand, perhaps a letter from some esteemed contributor would do. Until the war brought the telegraph into common use, we used it sparingly, as the expense was enormous. It was my good fortune to follow the history of the telegraph as a newspaper necessity from the very beginning. When I was graduated from Princeton in 1834, I had already some knowledge of the coming wonder, for I distinctly remember that among the experiments made by our professor of physics, the famous Henry, afterwards of the Smithsonian, was one in which signals were sent by electricity, or magnetism, as it was called in those days, from one end of a wire to the other. The wire was coiled around and around the laboratory and we listened to the clicks with interest. Professor Henry remarked at the time that there was in that experiment the germ of an apparatus for sending messages from town to town, and perhaps even from country to country. This was



several years before Morse brought out his telegraph. When I became a regular working editor, and began to use telegraphic dispatches in the *Evening Post*, they were luxuries rather than necessities, until the war changed all that. Speaking of early inventions, it was also my good fortune to travel once in a steamboat built by Robert Fulton, and when I went to Princeton by way of Perth Amboy, I travelled upon the second railroad line built in the United States. Those were the days when New York practically ended at Canal Street. I remember that as a boy we youngsters believed that Indians roamed unmolested above the Canal Street bridge. It is not surprising that when Mr. Bryant proposed, a few years later, that the city should buy some hundreds of acres where Central Park now stands, the notion should have been deemed a wild one. Five miles in those days, with the antiquated stages then in use, was as much of a journey as twenty-five miles would be to-day."

Mr. Godwin said that the way in which he came to enter the service of the *Evening Post*, in 1836, was a curious illustration of how slight an accident may sometimes turn the whole course of a man's life. He was, at that time, a young lawyer, had been admitted to the bar, and was waiting for clients. He was so poor, however, that he could not afford the boarding-house in which he was living at that time, and, going to a cousin of his, he inquired casually whether she could inform him of a cheaper boarding-house. She said yes. There had been a school directly across the way from her, which had just been vacated, and which was now to be opened as a boarding-house; and that, as they were making a new start, the owners would unquestionably make a very cheap arrangement for him. He went over and found this to be the case, and moved in; and he and another gentleman were for a time the only boarders. One day, when he came into the parlor, he found this other occupant of the boarding-house talking to a gentleman to whom he was introduced.

He failed to catch the name, but was struck by the beauty of the visitor's English and his evident refinement and culture. When he left, Godwin asked his fellow-boarder what the name of the man was. His friend said: "It is William Cullen Bryant, the poet, and he is coming here to live, his family having gone abroad." After that, Mr. Godwin had many opportunities to meet Mr. Bryant, and they finally became very intimate friends, taking long walks together, in the direction of what is now Central Park, and which was then open pasture land. Mr. Bryant came to him one day and told him that his assistant had incipient consumption, and was forced to go to Cuba for his health, and that he had considerable difficulty in finding a substitute to take the sick man's place. Finally, he asked Godwin whether he could not take it. The latter said no, as he was trained for the law, and he did not see how he was fitted for newspaper work. But finally Mr. Bryant prevailed upon him to accept the position temporarily. After he had been there two months, news came from Cuba that the assistant had died. The result was that Bryant again came to Godwin and asked him to stay permanently. Godwin said no again, that it was impossible; that he felt he owed it to his father to go on with his career. "But," said Mr. Godwin, "I promised that I would stay a few weeks longer, and I stayed forty-six years."

Mr. Godwin became a stockholder in the paper in 1860. When Lincoln made his first visit to New York after his inauguration, Godwin called upon him at his hotel, and Lincoln said to him that he had received a great many requests from prominent New Yorkers to make him (Godwin) Consul-General at Paris, and that he was very glad to do this, and would do it the first thing when he got back to Washington. Godwin was very much gratified at this, and said that he would accept. Going back to the Evening Post office, he met Mr. Bryant and told him at once of the appointment. Mr. Bryant was very much annoyed, and said

that that would never do, and that he must not go. Godwin replied that he had never received more than \$50 a week since he had been on the paper, and he could see no prospects for him there, and that he was anxious to go abroad. Just then John Bigelow, Mr. Bryant's partner, came in, and Bryant stated the case to him. The latter replied that he thought he saw a way out of the difficulty, and told Godwin that he (Bigelow) was very anxious to go abroad, and that, if President Lincoln would change the appointment from Godwin to Bigelow, the latter would sell his one-third interest in the Evening Post to Godwin for the sum of \$110,000. Godwin replied that he had no money, and that he could, therefore, not purchase it. Bryant said that he and Henderson would raise it for him, and thus the matter was arranged. Bigelow went as Consul-General to Paris, afterwards becoming Minister, and Godwin remained on the Evening Post as one-third owner.

The year after he purchased his one-third interest, the three owners, Godwin, Henderson, and Bryant, divided \$210,000. He himself originated the real-estate advertisements in the Evening Post, as he went to Ludlow & Pine, then the leading men in the real-estate business, and induced them to let him print their advertisements free in the Evening Post for the period of a year. After this they were very glad to pay for their advertisements, and all the small real-estate men felt bound to appear where these great leaders did. Mr. Godwin said that during the old days of auctioneering, the Evening Post also had the best part of that advertising.

# John Bigelow's Reminiscences

*Associate Editor 1849-1861*

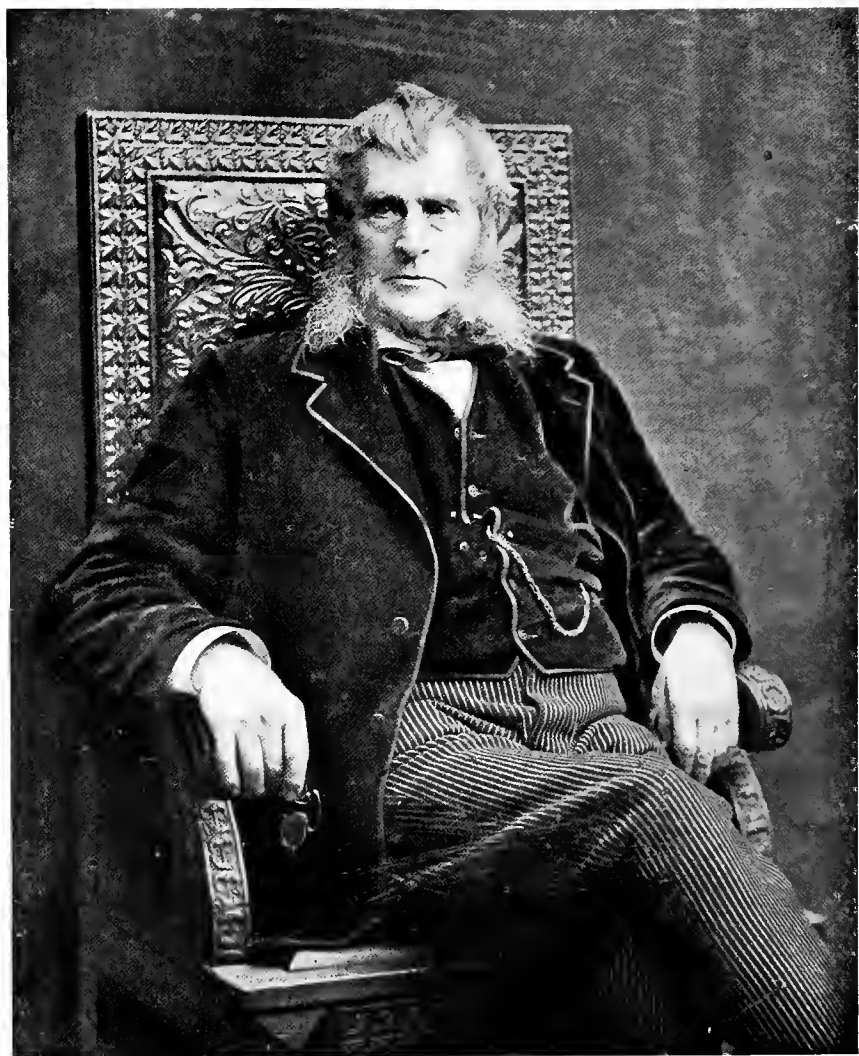
MR. BIGELOW, who during his eleven years' connection with the Evening Post was one of Bryant's warmest friends as well as his business and editorial associate, still speaks with affection of his newspaper days.

"I was connected with the Evening Post," said Mr. Bigelow, "from 1849 until the fall of 1861. During that period the newspaper was largely occupied with efforts to resist the extension of slavery into the free Territories. This contest, which came to a crisis in 1848, resulted in the disruption of the Democratic and Whig parties and the nomination of Van Buren and Adams for the Presidency, in opposition to the candidates of the regular Democratic and Whig parties. Although I was in those days a lawyer by profession, I wrote occasionally for the press, chiefly upon professional matters. In 1849 Mr. Tilden asked me if I would like to go into the Evening Post, saying that Mr. Bryant needed assistance; that I might be useful there; and he thought an arrangement could be made to pay me a pretty good salary if I would accept it. I said to Mr. Tilden, journalism had its attractions for me, but that I had already learned one profession, had a good practice for a young man, and did not propose to leave a field where I was my own master to accept a subordinate position elsewhere. The only condition under which I would entertain a proposition to go into the Evening Post would be

as a partner; as a salaried man I was sure I would do neither myself nor my partners justice. Not to go into details, the result was that Mr. William G. Boggs, the business manager, retired from the firm and sold out to me in the autumn of 1849. I recall with pride the fact that Charles O'Connor, who was then already nearing the headship of his profession in the United States, and upon whom I had no claims, except such as are established by mutual respect, lent me the money which I required to consummate the purchase.

"At that time the *Evening Post* was far from prosperous. We were three partners. The income from the paper the first year after I entered the firm was between \$9,000 and \$10,000. The circulation was small, from 1,500 to 2,000. Its course in resisting the extension of slavery into the free Territories had affected our advertising seriously. Southern business men resented anything with an abolition tinge, and most of our advertisers looked to the South for business. It was enough for a Northern merchant to report in the South that a rival firm advertised in the *Evening Post* to close accounts between such firm and any of its Southern customers, to whose notice the fact was pretty sure to be brought. Some of the oldest and best friends of the *Evening Post* gave this as their excuse for withdrawing their advertisements. In that way our advertising columns suffered severely for two or three years. It was a tardy satisfaction afterwards to learn that pretty much all who saved their customers at the South in this way had reason to regret it. The debts to the Northern merchants repudiated by the South a few years later were moderately estimated at not less than \$10,000,000.

"Of course our staff at that time was small. It consisted of Mr. Bryant and of Mr. Tenney, whose chief business it was to read exchanges. We shared with the Commercial Advertiser the expense of a marine reporter. We had no city editor and but one city reporter. That was about the condition of all the newspapers published in New York



JOHN BIGELOW, ASSOCIATE EDITOR 1849-1861

at the time. I don't think that the Commercial Advertiser, our only evening competitor, had any larger force. The Courier and Inquirer, then the leading morning paper, had a marine reporter and a special boat, with which it used to get its European news from incoming ships. That was quite a novelty, and seemed a bold thing to do. It is difficult now to realize the change wrought in newspaper work in New York during the fifty-odd years which have elapsed since then. Every day the Herald gives more space to sporting news of various kinds than was given then in six months by any New York daily. Nothing in the way of games or sports was ever reported in the press at the time I entered the Evening Post, except perhaps horse-races in the spring and autumn. Of college games no note was taken; in fact, there were none noticeable either in quality or quantity.

"When I entered the firm we had a job-printing office, poorly and feebly managed. If I remember rightly, the net income of the last year had been only about \$150, or something like that. Shortly before I left the bar, the courts had adopted a rule that cases coming to them on appeal should be printed. I was on pretty good terms with the bar and the judges. I gave both notice that if their cases were sent to us they would be printed in proper shape, which was more than the average printer at that day knew how to do, as it was a new kind of printing. Very soon business began to come in. We got a new foreman, who was directed never to decline a job because he could not execute it in time, even if he had to get all the printers in town to aid him. We soon had all the lawyers' printing, or pretty much all of it, and naturally it brought a great deal of other business. After the first year, and I think down to the time I left, there was no year that we did not net between \$10,000 and \$12,000 out of our job-printing, while neither Mr. Bryant nor myself ever spent altogether what would amount to three days' time in a year on the work of that department. It went by itself.

"I had not been long in the firm when it became necessary to make another change in the publishing department, and Isaac Henderson was invited to take the place of Mr. Howe. Mr. Henderson had many excellent business qualities, of which the fiscal department of the paper soon began to feel the effects. He continued to be a proprietor of the paper until it passed into the hands of its present proprietors.

"In looking back to my work upon the Evening Post, I have the pleasantest recollections of Mr. Bryant as a fellow-laborer. It was a pleasure and a distinction to work with him; perfect harmony always prevailed between us. Mr. Bryant was not a journalist in the modern sense of the word; he had, like most editors of the period, but an imperfect appreciation of the financial importance of news for a newspaper. He had always been a leader-writer. In fact, the superior value of news to editorial articles or opinions, as a newspaper asset, was first taught in New York by James Gordon Bennett, the elder, who made a fortune out of it. The Times followed his example with corresponding success. Mr. Bryant and every one else connected with the Evening Post had always relied chiefly upon its editorial page to attract readers. The Evening Post's influence was always considerable; but news had never been in those days its chief or even a conspicuous feature. The great prosperity of the Evening Post began when the political tide turned and Southern principles had ceased to be a wand to conjure with. Before that, people with political aspirations at Washington, or merchants seeking the Southern trade, were actually afraid to have the paper seen in their possession. Early in the fifties, however, it began to gain steadily. When I entered, its income, as I have already said, was not more than \$10,000 a year; when I left, it was yielding between \$70,000 and \$80,000. In the meantime, we bought a property at the corner of Liberty and Nassau Streets and fitted it up for offices. It turned out to be a very profitable investment for the newspaper. The business



office when I entered it was on the east side of Nassau Street, near the corner of Pine. Aaron Burr's sign as counsellor at law was on a two-story brick building immediately opposite. The Evening Post remained upon the site of what is now the Bryant building until it moved to its present quarters.

"There was another issue besides slavery in those days, and that was opposition to the waste of public money. We endeavored to teach, so far as possible, that the proper business and function of a representative Government allowed of no interference with private business or property. We questioned, occasionally, the wisdom of Government schools, for instance, doubting whether the principle which allowed the Government to teach school did not carry with it a right to meddle with everything else. Different views of Democracy now prevail. Mr. Bryant wrote a great deal on the subject of free trade. Most of the other papers of that day were either for protection or without opinions upon the subject. While we were always nominally Democrats, we were really independent on this as upon other subjects. The Democratic press generally avoided the question of free trade as one upon which the party had not formally expressed an opinion. The South was solid for free trade, while New England, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio were all inclining to protection, the New England States more especially, because their manufacturing industries had received a very substantial impulse, and, up to the time when I left the bar, were absorbing most of the capital of that part of the country. Most of the great fortunes of New England had been made through manufactures.

"Mr. Bryant was a man with whom I never disagreed upon any subject where it was not easy for one or the other of us to yield, because he was always, in the highest sense of the term, a conscientious man, a man of the highest principles, and I tried to be.

"One peculiarity of Bryant was that he absolutely refused

to do any newspaper work except at the office. I remember that when he wished to prepare an historical review for the semi-centennial of the paper in 1851, I offered to have the files of the Evening Post sent down to his house at Roslyn, so that he could use them there. He would not have it, and did it all at his desk. His home work, when he wrote at all away from the office, was either poetry or something relating to poets. Mr. Bryant's office desk was his editorial throne. It was something of a curiosity. It was a large desk, always piled up with rejected manuscripts, letters, books, pamphlets, documents of all kinds, with a little place in the center where he could find room enough in which to write. I should mention here that he always wrote for the Evening Post on the backs of old letters and rejected manuscripts. I don't remember to have ever seen a piece of his 'copy' on fresh paper, or to have known of his ordering any paper for editorial use. During his absence once in Europe I cleared his desk and thought I had greatly improved its appearance and convenience. When he returned I explained to him what I had done, but I saw from the expression of his face that my housecleaning had given him anything but satisfaction. He made no remark, but his silence meant chagrin. He was fond of things with old associations. He had an old jack-knife, for instance, with which he used to cut his quill pen. No one could induce him to use a new one. He was likewise attached to an old blue cotton umbrella that he insisted upon taking with him everywhere. When he was starting for Mexico, his daughter hid it away, replacing it with a handsome new silk umbrella. Before he got off he discovered the fraud, and insisted upon having the old one restored to him.

"I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that no other man's example ever exerted so great or lasting influence upon me as Mr. Bryant's. I say example, because he rarely gave advice. But his example to me proved very

infectious. Years after I had retired from the profession, when puzzled about a question of duty or propriety, I would instinctively ask myself, 'How would Bryant act in this case?' I always and promptly received a satisfactory answer.

"It is often said that the Evening Post was founded by Alexander Hamilton, but this is so only in the same way that the Sun was founded by Governor Morgan. I don't know whether Hamilton put any money into it or not. I don't think he had any to put in. I suppose it was called 'Hamilton's paper' just as the Hamburger Nachrichten was called 'Bismarck's paper.' It was recognized as his organ and advocated his principles.

"In those days, all the newspapers of importance were owned or controlled by their editors, who were usually the leaders or representatives of the leaders of one or the other of the great political parties. Coleman, the founder of the Post, was a Federalist of the Hamiltonian school, and continued to be the champion of Hamiltonian Federalism until Mr. Bryant had become established in the paper.

"Then newspapers were edited and published more for the influence they exerted upon public affairs than for the revenue they yielded the proprietors. Since then, the superior value of news to political patronage in extending the circulation and influence of a newspaper has entirely changed the character of the press from a feudal to a purely democratic régime. The late James Gordon Bennett was, so far as I know, the first to discover that news-gatherers were more important than leader-writers for procuring readers and advertisers. His example has pretty much emancipated the daily newspaper in this country from any dependence upon political organizations, and has transferred newspaper property in a great measure from the proprietorship of editors to that of capitalists; into organs of public opinion rather than of party opinion; into followers rather than leaders, servants of the

public rather than its masters. Among the editorial writers upon the Evening Post during my time, I should mention William M. Thayer, afterwards Consul to Egypt while I was Minister in Paris. He broke down in health, and Mr. Seward gave him the consulate at Alexandria, where he died a few years later of consumption. Thayer had had some experience in writing for magazines in connection with Charles Hale, brother of Edward Everett Hale. At the time of the attempt of Walker to conquer and colonize Nicaragua, I sent Thayer to Washington, where he became acquainted with Walker, who invited him to accompany him on his famous expedition. Ours was, I believe, the only paper that had a special correspondent there. When he returned I sent him again to Washington, where he was very much esteemed. He had the ear of all the important people in Washington, especially Fish, Seward, Chase, and Sumner.

“But for the condition of his health he would probably have been received into our firm. He had in him intellectually the making of a notable journalist.

“With the exception of Mr. Godwin and myself, I believe every person who was ever on the staff of the Evening Post in my time, whether as editor, reporter, or correspondent, is now dead. The same is true of most of its corps of occasional contributors, among whom, as worthy of special notice, I may mention Azariah C. Flagg, the Comptroller of the State, and afterwards of the city of New York; Francis P. Blair, the editor of the Washington Globe during the administrations of Jackson and Van Buren; Senator Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri; Judge William Kent, son of the Chancellor; Gideon Welles, of Connecticut, Secretary of the Navy under Lincoln; John Van Buren; William Cassidy, at one time editor of the Albany Atlas and correspondent of the Evening Post, and your old associate, Mr. Godkin.

"All these men, who contributed not a little to whatever reputation and influence the Evening Post enjoyed in those days, have also, with the exception of Mr. Godkin, long since joined the majority. Judge Kent, who was probably in a literary sense the most accomplished member of the New York bar of his time, became sufficiently enamored of journalism as a profession, between 1855 and 1860, to intimate to me a desire to join Mr. Bryant and myself in the Evening Post. Personally, the association would have been very agreeable to all parties, and it probably would have been consummated, but for a divergence of view between him and the Evening Post, developed after the nomination of Lincoln for President, which threatened to render such a connection incompatible with the independence of one of the parties.

"The Judge, like Mr. Tilden, apprehended civil war and disunion as the probable consequences of the triumph of a candidate for the Presidency by the votes of the free States alone. It was to him that Mr. Tilden addressed his letter of warning to the country of the danger of embattling a solid North against a solid South.

"In those days, as in later times, the Evening Post devoted more attention to literature and book reviews than any other paper except the Tribune, where Mr. George Ripley made the book department a feature of great importance. Mr. Bryant used to write short notices of books, for we had no special man for that work. What he did not do I commonly did—mostly long reviews, with extracts, etc. You see, in those days the expense of a newspaper had to be watched very carefully. Now the newspapers have to be careful not to spend too little.

"I managed in the course of the years I was in the Evening Post to make a satisfactory living. I had besides two years in Europe, two vacations in the West Indies, and I retired with what I thought an ample competence, grateful to the profession that had given it to me. But the profession

had become a little irksome to me in one particular. I was compelled to spend most of my energies in criticising other people—a life of antagonism that is not naturally congenial to me. It was a great relief to be out of it, and no longer responsible for what some people were doing that I was unable to approve of. It is difficult enough to judge the motives of our own conduct ; to judge the motives of others is dangerous.”

# Notes by Carl Schurz

*Editor 1881-83*

**I**N March, 1881, having turned over to my successor the Interior Department, at the head of which I had been during the Administration of President Hayes, I went from Washington to Boston for the purpose of attending a banquet. Before leaving Washington I received a letter from my friend Mr. Horace White, asking me to stop over night in New York, as he wished to lay before me a project which he thought might interest me. I complied with his request, and in New York Mr. White met me, together with Mr. Henry Villard. I had heard of Mr. Villard's great enterprises in the far West, but had never had any personal acquaintance with him, not even by letter. Mr. Villard then told me that he had conceived the idea of purchasing the controlling interest in the Evening Post, that journal to be put under the editorial control of Mr. Horace White, Mr. E. L. Godkin, and myself, I to occupy the position of chief editor. Mr. Villard, in whom I found, to my great surprise, not only an active man of affairs of a large conception, but an enthusiastic idealist of extraordinary public spirit, pictured to me in impressive language the influence on public opinion which might be exercised by the proposed combination, and warmly urged the plan upon my consideration. The consent of Mr. White and Mr. Godkin had already been obtained.

Upon my return from Boston we met again and discussed the plan in detail, and after mature consideration the enter-



CARL SCHURZ, EDITOR 1881-83



prise was resolved upon. It was agreed, and I might say as a matter of course, that the editors should be in entire control of the paper, and that the Evening Post should be an independent journal in the truest sense—that is, it should treat public questions, political, economic, or social, upon their own merits, without respect of persons or political parties, or of social influences or other interests. The editors should also be permitted to purchase as much of the stock of the company as they might like. Mr. Villard assured us that this was just what he had in mind, and that the paper should be absolutely free from any influence on the part of the ownership, a promise which was most conscientiously kept.

I leave the detailed history of the career of the Evening Post to other hands; but I may add that, despite occasional mistakes of information or errors of judgment, which no daily newspaper, however carefully conducted, can entirely avoid, the Evening Post has, by the observance of the principles of conduct then agreed upon, won the respect and confidence of serious men and women all over the country, and succeeded in setting people to thinking in so extraordinary a degree that it may well be said to have thus achieved an almost unique position in American journalism.

# The Evening Post from 1881 to the Present Day

*By Horace White, Editor since 1899*

THE ownership of the Evening Post in 1881 was vested in Mr. Parke Godwin and Mr. Isaac Henderson, the former being a proprietor in his own right and controlling also the interest of the late William C. Bryant. In pursuance of the arrangement recited by Mr. Schurz in the preceding narrative, the shares of both were purchased. Before the purchase was completed, however, the suggestion had been made to Mr. Villard by Mr. E. L. Godkin, the editor of the Nation, that that paper should be taken over and made a weekly edition of the Evening Post, which suggestion had the concurrence also of Mr. W. P. Garrison, the associate editor and general manager of the Nation. This plan was carried into effect.

Mr. Villard's motives in purchasing the Evening Post were wholly of a public nature. He wished to do something useful to his adopted country by taking a daily journal of established reputation and putting it in charge of men who would give it increased influence and authority. He informed them that they were absolutely independent of himself, independent of the counting-room, and independent of party. To make good this declaration, he placed all of his shares in a trust, with David A. Wells, Benjamin H. Bristow, and Horace White trustees, with all the powers that he could have exercised. This trust remained in force for several

years, and at its expiration Mr. Villard turned the property over wholly to other members of his family. Mr. Godkin once said that he knew of no other man, in his wide circle of acquaintance, who would have acted so generously and disinterestedly in thus effacing himself from the control of an important pecuniary investment.

The history of the *Evening Post* from that period to the present time must be found in the positions it took, the judgments it formed, and the opinions it expressed on the leading questions of the day. A newspaper which merely inks over a certain amount of white paper each day may be a good collector of news, it may be successful as a business venture, but it can leave no mark upon its time and can have no history.

The new management became invested with the editorial control of the paper on the 1st of July, 1881.

On the day following this event (July 2) President Garfield was shot in the railway station at Washington city by Charles J. Guiteau, an office-seeker of unbalanced mind. At the time when this tragedy was enacted, Senator Conkling and Vice-President Arthur were in Albany working for the vindication of the former in his quarrel with the Administration. Mr. Conkling had resigned his seat in the United States Senate in order to express his indignation at the appointment by the President of Judge Robertson as Collector of Customs at New York, in place of Merritt, removed, and had gone to Albany to secure a reëlection by the Legislature as a rebuke to the President. In this enterprise he had secured the coöperation of his colleague, Senator Platt. This was the first event upon which the *Evening Post* under its new management had to express an opinion. It took the position that the quarrel, being a difference about "spoils" and not about principles, was one in which there was little to choose between the President and the Senator, although the latter was making himself ridiculous by his method of carrying on the fight.



EDWIN LAWRENCE GODKIN, EDITOR 1883-1899

On the course of Vice-President Arthur, however, it expressed the opinion that he was severely censurable for espousing Mr. Conkling's quarrel, and that he had lowered the dignity of his office by making himself Mr. Conkling's tool at Albany. At the same time it expressed the opinion that if Mr. Arthur should become President under such circumstances, he would probably be a more conservative and dignified one by reason of the sobering caused by Guiteau's pistol-shot. A few words quoted from one of its articles on this subject possess interest in connection with the assassination of President McKinley :

"He [Mr. Arthur] is a man of education as well as of affairs, of an amiable and yielding disposition, and hence more likely to be impressed with the responsibilities of his new station, and the fatality through which it fell to his lot, than a person of narrow mind and headstrong temper would be. The duty of the people to him in the event of President Garfield's death will be no less imperative and binding than his duty to them. He will be entitled to the forbearance and confidence due to one who has neither sought nor expected the Presidential office, but who assumes it in obedience to law and under very trying circumstances. Mourn as we all may and must for our elected chief, if he be lost, the country has still higher claims upon us. To see that the republic receives no detriment is the first command laid upon every citizen. The sobriety and reasonableness which carried us through the crisis of a disputed Presidency will not fail us in the emergency now so painfully apprehended."

President Garfield died on the 19th of September, and the Evening Post's greeting to his successor was in these words :

"To-day President Arthur receives from all parts of the country assurances of good will, of sincere wishes for his success. These assurances come from journals and from men



HORACE WHITE, PRESENT EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST

of all political parties and shades of opinion, who esteem the welfare of the country a higher consideration than the fortunes or fate of any man, and we have no doubt they are sincerely meant. Every good citizen shares the feeling which inspires them, and will be heartily glad to find in President Arthur's Administration much to praise and support, and little to condemn and oppose. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that these expressions of sympathy and good will are given in advance, and that President Arthur's ultimate relations with the people will depend entirely upon the manner in which he understands and performs the duties of his high office."

Mr. Arthur's Administration was in general dignified and wholesome. It was marred by some bad appointments to office, which led to a split in the Republican party in New York in the election of 1882, which resulted in the election of Grover Cleveland (Democrat) as Governor by a plurality of 192,854. In the Congressional elections of the same year the Democrats secured 191 seats in the House of Representatives and the Republicans 119. The Republican party was now thoroughly alarmed. It attributed its overthrow in the elections to the frequent scandals in the civil service and to the assessments levied on office-holders for campaign expenses. In a penitential mood it passed the so-called Pendleton bill, which, for the first time, made assessments on office-holders unlawful and made appointment and promotion to certain positions in the Federal service—mainly clerkships—dependent upon competitive examination. It also established machinery for carrying the reform into effect. This was a measure for which the *Evening Post* under its new management had contended zealously; the *Nation* had been conspicuous and unremitting in its labors to the same end from its foundation, in 1865. The Pendleton bill became a law in January, 1883. The *Evening Post* expressed the opinion that President Arthur would carry out the measure in good faith, but it added :



HENRY VILLARD



“His successor may be a man who will see in it nothing but a Republican device to cheat Democrats out of their well-earned rewards, or a weak man unable to resist the pressure of old friends and patrons. In either case constant vigilance will be necessary, until all trace of the notion that the public offices are spoils, or prey, has disappeared from the public mind.”

Fortunately, the apprehension here expressed was not realized. The election of 1882, which gave the Democrats control of the House, as already said, made Grover Cleveland Governor of New York. He was then a new man in public life, for although he had served a term as Mayor of Buffalo acceptably, his name was little known outside of his own immediate neighborhood. His election to the office of Governor was an event of the first importance in national politics.

In the autumn of 1883 Mr. Schurz voluntarily retired from the editorship of the *Evening Post* and was succeeded by Mr. Godkin.

Early in 1884 it became evident that James G. Blaine would be a formidable candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency. He had been a candidate before the Convention of 1876, when the nomination finally went to Governor Hayes, of Ohio. He had been defeated then by a timely exposure of certain transactions with the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company while he was Speaker of the House of Representatives. The details of these transactions were embraced in a correspondence between Mr. Blaine and Warren Fisher, Jr., of Boston, known as the Mulligan letters, from the name of the man in whose custody they had been placed by Mr. Fisher. Eight years had elapsed since the Mulligan letters had been made public, yet they seemed to constitute, in the minds of Mr. Blaine's supporters, no bar to his nomination for the office of President in 1884.

The *Evening Post* thought otherwise. It had been a

Republican paper hitherto, as the Nation had been also, in the sense that they had never failed to support the Republican nominees in Presidential campaigns, but the editors foresaw that if Mr. Blaine were nominated in the face of the Mulligan letters, they could not support the Republican ticket in the coming campaign, and that in all probability the party would lose the Presidency, for the first time since the election of Mr. Lincoln in 1860. Accordingly, in the month of April, the Evening Post published editorially a full statement of the charges against Mr. Blaine in connection with the railroad, and expressed the belief that he had made use of the Speakership for the purpose of private gain, and that if he were nominated, he would be defeated. This article was the opening of the anti-Blaine campaign.

Mr. Blaine was, nevertheless, nominated by the Republicans. The Democrats nominated Grover Cleveland, and the Evening Post gave him its active support. Mr. Cleveland carried the State of New York by a small plurality, and was elected.

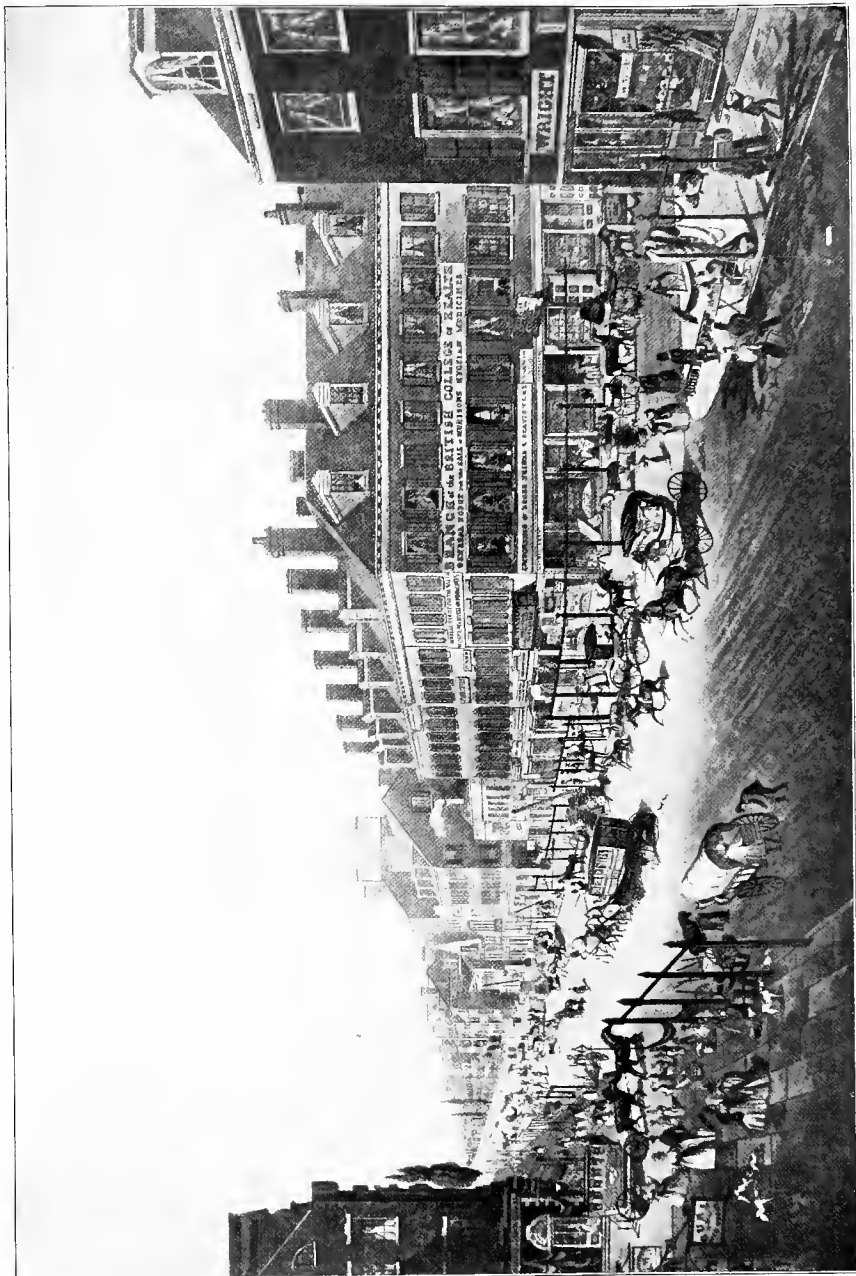
The Evening Post had declared before the election that civil-service reform could never be well rooted in national policy, or in the public opinion which constitutes and enforces national policy, until it should have stood the test of a change of political power at Washington. It had expressed the belief that Mr. Cleveland could be depended on to execute the new law in its letter and spirit. It took up this text and made the subject prominent in its discussions of public affairs during the interval between Mr. Cleveland's election and his inauguration. The President-elect wrote a letter December 25, 1884, to Mr. G. W. Curtis, announcing his purpose not only to execute the Pendleton act according to its terms, but also to extend its operation as far and as fast as practicable, but declaring at the same time that office-holders not covered by the Pendleton act, who had proved themselves offensive partisans and unscrupulous manipulators of local party man-

agement, must not expect to be retained in office—a position which the Evening Post considered justifiable. In this interval, too, Mr. Cleveland wrote a letter to the Hon. A. J. Warner and other Democratic members of Congress, indicating his opposition to the coinage of silver then going on under the Bland act. The Evening Post had been a zealous and unceasing opponent of that measure, and it gave a hearty support to Mr. Cleveland in the fight over this question, which continued for nine years longer, and ended in victory in the autumn of 1893, when the Sherman act, which superseded the Bland act, was repealed.

In the municipal campaign of 1884 the Evening Post supported Mr. William R. Grace for Mayor, the opposing candidates being Grant (Tam.) and Gibbs (Rep.). Mr. Grace was elected by a plurality of about 11,000.

Six months after Mr. Cleveland's inauguration as President the Evening Post congratulated its readers on the fact that, although the Democratic party had come into power after a lapse of fourteen years, the American republic seemed to be still in a good state of preservation and fairly well contented. It said:

"The superstition which had come to possess a large proportion of Republicans that the accession of the Democracy to power would involve the ruin of the country has been for ever dispelled. It seems almost incredible now that only a few months ago there were hosts of men who fully and sincerely believed that the election of Mr. Cleveland meant the bankruptcy of the Federal Treasury by the payment of the 'rebel claims,' the loss of all the fruits of the war, and such a general political, financial, and moral upheaval as would set the nation back twenty years. Popular government is a failure if a party which comprises a majority of the people cannot be trusted to govern the whole people. Six months ago a considerable percentage of the public held this most discouraging view of the result of a century's trial of the



BROADWAY AND CANAL STREET IN 1862

(From 'The New Metropolis,' Copyright by D. Appleton & Co.)

American experiment. To-day the man who should begin ranting about the country's going to ruin because the Democrats were in power would simply be laughed at, even by Republicans whom he formerly duped most badly. To have thus restored faith in government of the people, whatever servants they may employ to do their work, is in itself a great achievement."

In 1885-6 one of the leading measures before Congress was the Blair Educational Bill, which proposed to appropriate \$100,000,000 from the national Treasury to run through a series of years as an aid to education in the South. The *Evening Post* opposed it on the ground that such donations tended to deaden the spirit of self-help. Its position was summed up in the following words:

"All the plans for Federal aid proceed upon the assumption that such aid will be a good thing for the South. It is this assumption which we combat. We maintain that the worst thing that could befall the cause of education in the South would be a series of liberal appropriations from the national Treasury for a series of years. We mean, of course, the worst thing in the long run, for no judgment upon such a matter is of any value which is not based upon a long look ahead. We are ready to admit that more Southern voters might be able to read ten years hence if \$100,000,000 should be appropriated by Congress, for use chiefly in Southern schools, than if the States were left to their own resources; but we insist that this temporary gain in intelligence would be purchased at the cost of a permanent loss in character vastly more important—the loss of self-reliance and self-respect."

The Blair Educational Bill was before Congress several years. The first vote on it in the Senate was taken April 7, 1884, at which time there was a majority in favor of the bill of three to one (yeas 33, nays 11). It was passed by the Senate a second time, March 5, 1886, yeas 35, nays 12; and

a third time, February 15, 1888, yeas 39, nays 29. In none of these cases did it come to a vote in the House. It was finally defeated in the Senate March 20, 1890, by yeas 39, nays 43. What is more remarkable is the fact that a majority of the Senators from the States that would have received most of the money voted against it. It was the general belief at the time that the arguments advanced by the Evening Post were chiefly instrumental in defeating the measure.

There was an exciting municipal campaign in the autumn of 1886, the candidates for Mayor being Abram S. Hewitt, Henry George, and Theodore Roosevelt. The Evening Post supported Mr. Hewitt, who was elected by a plurality of about 23,000.

In the Presidential campaign of 1888 the Evening Post supported Mr. Cleveland, but his Republican opponent, General Harrison, was elected, Mr. Cleveland receiving, however, a plurality of the popular vote. An event of minor importance was the election of Hugh J. Grant, the Tammany candidate, for Mayor of New York. The opposing candidates were Abram S. Hewitt, the then incumbent of the office, and Joel B. Erhardt, the Republican nominee.

The year 1890 was signalized by two measures of great importance in national politics—the McKinley tariff and the Sherman Silver Bill. The House of Representatives was controlled by the friends of the former and the Senate by the silver men. The two measures were passed by means of a political trade, although this fact was not made public until some years later. The Evening Post opposed both measures. The tariff bill was supported by its advocates with the rather shopworn argument that our infant industries still needed protection. This droll plea moved an occasional contributor to the columns of the Evening Post to write for it a short poem, which was published anonymously. The author was James Russell Lowell. The poem was entitled:

## THE INFANT PRODIGY.

A veteran entered at my gate  
With locks as cherry-blossoms white ;  
His clothes proclaimed a prosperous fate,  
His boots were arrogantly bright.

The hat was glossy on his head,  
Gold-rimmed his eye-glass, gold his chain,  
In genial curves his waistcoat spread,  
And golden-headed was his cane.

Without a preface thus he spoke,  
“I’ve called to get my annual due”;  
Whereat I too the silence broke,  
With: “Who, respected sir, are you?”

“What is your claim against me, pray?  
A many-childed man am I,  
Hard pinched my monthly bills to pay,  
And prices rule perversely high.”

“Not know me? Everybody knows  
And gladly gives his mite,” quoth he.  
“Why, I’m a babe in swaddling clothes,  
I am an Infant Industry.”

“Forgive me, Reverend Shape,” I cried,  
“You set my faith a heavy task;  
This infancy which seems your pride,  
Is it your second, may I ask?”

“Or have you, where so many failed,  
The key to life’s Elixir found?  
You look like one who never ailed,  
In wind and limb sedately sound.”

“You doubt my word? (Excuse these tears  
They flow for you and not for me.)  
Young man, for more than seventy years  
I’ve been an Infant Industry.

“Your father rued my helpless lot,  
Lifelong he handed me his fee,  
Nor ever asked himself for what;  
He loved an Infant Industry.”

Quoth I, “He paid my ransom then  
From further tribute, small or great.  
Besides, if I can judge of men,  
Since that you’ve grown to man’s estate.”

He murmured, as I bowed him out,  
“The world is getting worse and worse;  
This fellow makes me almost doubt  
Whether I’ve not been changed at nurse.

“But no; this hat, this cane, these boots,  
This suit in London made by P.,  
Convince me to the very roots  
I am an Infant Industry.”

Until he vanished from my sight  
These words came floating back to me:  
“Yes, spite of Time, in Reason’s spite,  
I am an Infant Industry.”

While the Sherman Silver Bill was pending the Evening Post predicted that if it should become a law it would lead to a financial crisis. It said :

“Experience teaches that the present coinage rate of two millions per month [under the Bland act] is all that the public will take off the Secretary’s hands. Any excess of silver purchases will, therefore, be an addition to the public expenses, exactly the same as a new pension bill, or any other unproductive expenditure. It is the same thing as buying any kind of property not wanted for use. But the consequence of a great increase of the public expenses is to create a Treasury deficit, and whenever this happens, and however it may come about, the Treasury will no longer be able to maintain parity between gold and silver. Not only will the



silver crisis then begin, but another kind of crisis will begin at the same time. A Treasury deficit does not exhaust itself with silver payments. Unless taxes are increased, so as to choke the deficit, bonds must be issued to meet current expenses. This is what we have to look forward to if any such insensate measure becomes a law."

These predictions were more than fulfilled within three years.

In the summer of 1890, in preparation for the municipal campaign of that year, the *Evening Post* published a series of biographical sketches of the leaders of Tammany Hall, and accompanied the same with an editorial article which made them extremely angry. This article concluded with these words:

"The work the *Evening Post* has been doing about these men and their kind is work which ought not, in any highly civilized community, to devolve on a journalist at all. We do not believe any civilized community has heretofore left it to its journalists. The way in which such men usually come under the notice of the press is in comment on the efforts of the police to watch them, and catch them, or on the sentences passed on them by the criminal courts. Writing their history with the view of keeping them out of places of civil honor and trust is surely an unprecedented editorial experience in a great capital, and yet this is the task which New York to-day imposes on its newspapers. It is a task which, it seems, has to be performed, but it is one which no respectable journalist can perform without shame and indignation."

Shortly afterwards a series of warrants of arrest were issued against Mr. Godkin, the editor of the paper, charging him with criminal libel. They were issued on the complaint of various Tammany politicians whose biographies had been published in the *Evening Post*. The warrants were served at times and places where it would be most inconvenient to procure bail; not for the purpose of a trial on the charge of

libel, but to cause personal annoyance. In one such case a policeman came to Mr. Godkin's house Sunday morning, before he had risen, and insisted upon going to his bedroom, where he served the warrant, and refused to leave the room except with Mr. Godkin in custody. Not a single one of these cases ever came to trial. They were all dismissed for want of prosecution.

The Republicans were defeated in the Congressional elections of 1890, electing only 87 members out of a total of 332—an unexampled defeat, due to the passage of the McKinley Tariff Bill. The municipal campaign in New York resulted in the re-election of Grant (Tammany) for Mayor against Scott (Fusion).

In the ensuing campaign of 1892 Mr. Cleveland received his party's nomination a third time, despite the fact that the regular Democratic delegation from his own State, led by David B. Hill, was unanimously and bitterly opposed to him. The Evening Post advocated the sending of a volunteer delegation of New York Democrats to Chicago to counteract the influence of the regulars and to urge the nomination of Mr. Cleveland. This was done. A convention was held at Syracuse, and a delegation headed by William C. Whitney was sent to Chicago for the purpose aforesaid. It accomplished the work which it was appointed to do, and without much difficulty, for it found two-thirds of the delegates, other than those of New York, enthusiastic for Mr. Cleveland, who was nominated on the first ballot, and was elected in November by a very large majority.

After the election the Evening Post pointed out the necessity of repealing the Sherman Silver Act, and called upon Senator Sherman himself to assist, in order to avert impending financial disaster. A few days later an interview with Mr. Sherman was published in which he expressed a sincere desire to put a stop to the Government's purchase of silver, but said that legislation on the subject must depend somewhat on the

outcome of the Brussels Monetary Conference, which began its sessions in November, 1892. The Evening Post predicted the utter failure of that Conference, saying:

"They [the European delegates] have not overlooked the fact that our currency is still in politics—that is, is voted on, or liable to be voted on every two years at the election of members of Congress—and that the enormous store of silver we now have in the Treasury vaults has been accumulated not under the influence of financial, but of political considerations, not because our experts recommend it, but because a large body of voters, who know little or nothing about the matter, demanded it, and in spite of the warnings and protests of nearly every instructed person in the country. We have only to state these facts to show that an international agreement with regard to the coinage, which depended for its maintenance and success on the fidelity of every one of the parties to it, would practically put the currency of every country which adhered to it into the American political arena, and compel it to watch our elections with the utmost anxiety lest the result of the vote should break up the compact. To suppose that France, Germany, and England are going to expose their standard of value to a risk of this sort is to suppose that their business men have lost all their sagacity. It is, in fact, a ridiculous supposition."

On the 17th of December the news came that the Brussels Conference had adjourned without coming to any agreement, except to reassemble in the month of May, 1893, which it failed to do.

The financial troubles that the Evening Post had predicted as the sure result of the Sherman Act and the McKinley tariff came in the summer of 1893. The part that the Tariff Bill played consisted in the repeal of the sugar duties and the payment of bounties on the production of home-grown sugar, causing a loss of over \$60,000,000 of revenue and making it necessary for the Secretary of the Treasury to take money

out of the greenback redemption fund to meet the ordinary expenses of the Government. The holders of legal-tender notes, anticipating this contingency, began to present them at the Treasury for redemption. The gold reserve fell below the traditional sum of \$100,000,000 in April. On June 26 the Government of India demonetized silver, the price of which fell 15 cents per ounce in three days. A panic of great severity began in Wall Street. On June 30 the President called Congress together in extra session to repeal the Sherman Act, fixing August 1 as the time for meeting. The Evening Post believed that the turning point had at last been reached and that the silver craze, although it might linger somewhat, was now on the decline. It closed an article on this subject with the following paragraph:

"The term 'silver lunacy' has been treated as a term of vituperation, but it is nothing of the kind. It is strictly descriptive. It denotes a wave of popular hallucination, such as, in past ages, usually arose in the field of religion and dealt with the supernatural, or expended itself on the infidels, or the witches, or the Jews. Had we alone had to deal with it, there is no knowing into what slough it would have plunged us before passing away. Happily, some power over the object of the superstition remained in the hands of the saner portion of mankind in other countries. The Latin Union, England, and now India, had the fortunes of the idol more or less in their hands, and have, mercifully for us, used their power to rip him open and exhibit his fraudulent insides to his dupes."

Congress assembled at the appointed time, and the House, under the lead of the late William L. Wilson, promptly passed a bill to repeal the Sherman Silver Act. The bill went to the Senate, and after a long debate, which disclosed the fact that a majority was favorable to its passage, the minority refused to allow a vote to be taken, and began to filibuster against it. The filibustering continued for weeks.

The majority resorted to night sessions in order to bring on a vote, but failed in the effort. If the right of the majority to govern could be overborne in this way, the *Evening Post* considered the condition of things at Washington akin to revolution. It said:

“There can be no Union without the rule of the majority, and under any suspension, or impairment, of that rule, the country must dissolve into its original parts. We say this not because the Silver Bill is the immediate subject of discussion, but because the same result must come to pass whenever the majority principle is broken down. If we have reached the point in our national existence where the obstruction of a minority cannot be overcome, then patriotic citizens must drop all other concerns and lay aside all other differences until the rule of majority is reestablished. . . . The time for compromise is past. Better that we should meet national bankruptcy, inability to meet the interest on the public debt, or the salaries of Congressmen, judges, Cabinet officers, or pensions, or the cost of carrying the mails. Better that we should come to the silver standard and all that that implies, scaling down the wages of workingmen and shaving the deposits in savings banks 35 per cent. Better any kind of financial calamity than the overthrow of the rule of the majority, on which our present and future national existence depends.”

On October 28 the minority stopped filibustering, and allowed a vote to be taken, but it remains doubtful to this day whether they yielded in obedience to the spirit of Constitutional government and fair dealing, or because they had heard that Secretary Carlisle would not buy any more silver until the bill was voted on. There was a majority of eleven votes in favor of repealing the Sherman Act.

The repeal of the Sherman Act did not put the Treasury in funds, however. It did not choke the deficit caused by the repeal of the sugar duties, and the new Pension Bill.

There was a shortage of revenue to meet expenses during the three years 1894-'95-'96 of \$137,811,730. This was additional to the \$155,981,000 paid for silver purchased under the Sherman Act. These two sums, amounting to \$293,792,730, had to be borrowed during the Cleveland Administration. This Treasury deficit, threatening to overturn the standard of value, was the main cause of the panic and the subsequent commercial distress and of the labor troubles which broke out in 1894.

Among these most conspicuous manifestations were the marching of "Coxey's army" upon Washington and the outbreak of the Debs riot at Chicago. The latter occurred in July, 1894. It took the form of a boycott of the Pullman Car Company. Eugene V. Debs was the President of the so-called American Railway Union, an organization of trainmen, switchmen, and track employees. Neither Debs nor his men had anything to do with the Pullman Company or with car manufacturing. Mr. Pullman had been compelled, by the declining price of cars and by the lessened demand for them, either to reduce wages or to close his works and throw his men out of employment. He had reduced the wages to some extent. At the time when Debs entered upon the scene the Pullman Company was making and selling cars at less than actual cost in order to keep its men employed. At this juncture Debs, in behalf of the American Railway Union, demanded that the Pullman Company should either restore the former rate of wages or submit the question of doing so to arbitration. This demand was rejected by the Pullman Company. Then Debs ordered the members of the American Railway Union not to "handle" Pullman cars—that is, to refuse to operate trains containing Pullman cars. Twenty-three railroads, mostly between Chicago and the Pacific Coast, were brought to a deadlock by this means.

On the 8th of July, President Cleveland issued a proclamation commanding all persons who were engaged in

unlawful attempts to interfere with the movement of trains employed in interstate commerce to retire to their respective abodes. He gave an order simultaneously to the military authorities to disperse the crowds in the city of Chicago which were interfering with such trains. The order was promptly obeyed, the rioters were driven away without bloodshed, and the Debs boycott came to an end even more sudden than its beginning. Congress was at that time in session, but as there was an election approaching, not a single member of the House of Representatives dared to utter a word in commendation of the President's course. The Evening Post gave its opinion of their behavior in these words :

“A disheartening effect of this troublous time is the cowardice of Congressmen at Washington. A few Senators have spoken out like men, but it has been impossible to get a positive expression of opinion from any Representative of standing. While the respectable press of the country is a unit in applauding and sustaining the President, and while the great mass of the people are delighted and relieved by his firm attitude, Congress sits by shamefaced and cowering. The only resolutions introduced are firebrands of Populists, and it is only the rule requiring their reference to a committee which saves us from incendiary speeches by our lawmakers. If Congress had any men left in it, it would have passed ere this a joint resolution holding up the hands of the President and rebuking and warning anarchists. But the anarchists have votes, and the most valiant Congressman who remembers that election day is only four months off runs from the interviewer in a fright. It takes a purblind demagogue, in the Washington haze which always distorts popular opinion, to think for a moment that there is a vote to be gained by anybody in crawling before the anarchists. Everybody with the cobwebs out of his eyes sees that the men like Senator Davis, of Minnesota, and the President himself, are the men whom the nation delights to honor, and that there never before was so

much public contempt for the trimmer, who haws and hums and dodges when a national crisis comes."

The Evening Post supported the candidacy of Col. William L. Strong for Mayor of New York in the campaign of 1894, which resulted in his election by a plurality of about 45,000 over Hugh J. Grant, the Tammany candidate. It

opposed the project of consolidating the cities now forming Greater New York, as it believed that such union would lead to a large increase in the cost of the municipal government, with no improvement in its quality, but probably a deterioration of it by extending Tammany misrule over a wider area.

The Evening Post was deeply pained by President Cleveland's warlike message to Congress in December, 1895, on the Venezuelan question. As the trouble has wholly passed away, there is no occasion for reproducing its comments on that



WENDELL PHILLIPS GARRISON

Literary Editor of The Evening Post and Editor of  
the Nation since 1881

episode, but a few words may be reprinted which were called out by certain petitions offered up to the throne of Grace by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives at that crisis, in one of which he prayed that "we might be quick to resent any insult offered to this our nation," and in another he besought the Almighty for peace on condition that it should be honorable.



Upon these remarkable adjurations the Evening Post remarked:

"We warn all fighting parsons that by no form of words can they conceal from the Deity what they are up to. The petitions reached the throne of Grace stripped of all rhetorical drapery in their naked barbarity. Here is the form in which their prayer arrives at its destination: 'O Lord, grant that we may be able to kill plenty of our enemies and destroy their property for any reason that may seem good to ourselves.' The 'patriotism' and the 'self-respect' and the 'honor,' and all the other tinsel and shabby finery in which these gentlemen invest their war-whoops never reach the upper air of divine peace and love. Nobody is imposed on by these blasphemous harangues, while many are deeply disgraced. But the chaplains are not wholly to blame. All Jingoese who try to clothe simple hatred of England, or of any foreign nation, with the sacred name of love of country, or patriotism, are as great humbugs as the chaplain. A desire to invade Canada and kill Englishmen through simple dislike differs in no respect except intensity from the feeling with which the Iroquois used to start out on the war-path to kill the Mohawks. The patriotism of the modern man, and above all the American man, is a desire not to wade in enemy's blood, but to make his country preëminent in the arts of peace. It is one thing to defend one's house manfully if compelled, but quite another to wander about among the barrooms, in order to chastise anybody who seems likely to insult you."

The Evening Post took an active part in the movement for a treaty of arbitration of future differences with Great Britain, which led to a great conference at Washington city, presided over by ex-Senator Edmunds, and which President Cleveland supported and promoted with so much earnestness that such a treaty was actually negotiated and sent to the Senate. The treaty failed of ratification, but the popular move-

ment which carried it forward smoothed the way to a peaceful settlement of the Venezuela dispute, and was not without influence in promoting the success of the Hague Conference.

When William J. Bryan was nominated in July, 1896, by the Democratic party for President of the United States on a platform which demanded the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 without reference to the action of any other nation, the Evening Post said that this scheme, if carried into effect, would be equivalent to repudiation of one-half of all debts, public and private, that this was the great and overpowering issue of the campaign, and that it should give its support to the Republican nominees, McKinley and Hobart. When the campaign was ended the Evening Post had this to say :

“We have escaped from what a large number of people supposed was an immense danger, the danger of having our currency adulterated and our form of government changed and a band of ignoramuses and Populists put at the head of the great American republic. Probably no man in civil life has succeeded in inspiring so much terror without taking life as Bryan.

“The world has never before witnessed the spectacle of an immense number of people drawing gold out of solvent banks and locking it up lest the value of their money should be reduced one-half by the result of an election—this, too, in a time of profound peace. As election day drew nearer this movement became more pronounced, causing unexpected tightness in the money market. On Thursday call money touched 100 per cent., and it loaned at that rate on the following day. It is the estimate of good judges that \$40,000,000 was thus hoarded, most of it during the past thirty days.”

Events are now brought down to a period where they are within the recollection of nearly all persons who will read this review. Hence the remainder may be briefly dismissed. The

Evening Post was opposed to war with Spain. It was not indifferent to the wrongs and sufferings of the Cubans, but it believed that these were remediable without war. It held and expressed the opinion that the Government of Spain would concede everything that we demanded, even to a complete withdrawal from Cuba, if she were given a little time to reconcile her people to that policy and to show them the necessity of it. This opinion received ample confirmation afterward from Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, our Minister to that country. The Evening Post did not believe that the destruction of the Maine was caused by anybody operating outside of that ship, but held that if it were so caused it did not follow that Spain was responsible for the act.

After the war was ended, the Evening Post opposed the policy of taking the Philippine Islands as a conquered province against the will of the inhabitants thereof. It believed that such a policy was in contravention of the principles of free government, and that its tendency must be to lessen and eventually to uproot our reverence for the rights of man as affirmed in the Declaration of Independence and enacted in the Constitution of the United States. Holding this opinion, which it considered fundamental, it could not support Mr. McKinley for reelection in the last Presidential campaign. It is needless to say that it did not support Mr. Bryan. It heartily commended Mr. McKinley's policy of humane treatment of China in the deplorable events of last year. It gave the full measure of praise to his speech at Buffalo in behalf of peace, the day before his assassination.

When the Ship-Subsidy Bill was brought forward in the last Congress with the confident expectation of its promoters that it would be speedily passed, the Evening Post gave a large part of its space and its utmost efforts to the exposure of the socialistic and fraudulent character of the measure. It was the opinion of persons most closely conversant with the

progress of that fight that the Evening Post contributed very much to the defeat of the Hanna-Payne bill.

The Evening Post favored the election of Mr. Odell as Governor in 1900. His public acts and messages, thus far, have vindicated its judgment of his character and abilities. Although it neither favored nor opposed the elevation of Mr. Roosevelt to the position which made him the Constitutional successor of Mr. McKinley, it has gladly recognized the meritorious and conservative spirit with which he has entered upon an office which came to him under such distressing circumstances.

In the autumn of 1899 Mr. Godkin was compelled by failing health to sever his connection with the Evening Post, but continued for some time to contribute articles to its columns signed with his initials. He was succeeded in the editorship of the paper by Mr. Horace White.



## Staff Reminiscences—I.

*By William Alexander Linn, Managing Editor 1891-1900*

WHEN I accepted the city editorship of the Evening Post, in November, 1871, the paper was edited and published in the ramshackle old four-story building which then occupied the site of the present Bryant building, on the northwest corner of Nassau and Liberty Streets. That site had some advantages in those days which it would not now possess. The Post-office was then diagonally opposite, and, as there was no quick transit through the city, the nearness of the office assisted in the early delivery of the mails. The nearness of the site to Wall Street was another advantage in those days. There were no "tickers" then, to announce the stock sales in the newspaper offices, and the Wall Street quotations were printed in the newspaper from the official sheet of the Stock Exchange, which was itself printed, as regards the closing quotations, immediately after the business of the Exchange was concluded for the day. A messenger boy in waiting seized the first copy and rushed with it to the newspaper office, where it was cut into small "takes," and put into type with all possible speed. The hour of going to press with the last edition was then 4:15 P.M., an hour later than at present.

As the editorial and composing rooms were confined to the third floor, the editorial accommodations were very restricted. Mr. Bryant had a little room, from which he could escape unwelcome callers by means of a rear staircase.

There were only three other editorial rooms, but, on the other hand, there were not many editors.

When I joined the force, it consisted, besides Mr. Bryant, of Charlton T. Lewis, the managing editor; his assistant, Bronson Howard, the now famous dramatist; a telegraph editor, who also acted as dramatic critic; the city editor, and the financial editor. Mr. Bryant was then only an occasional contributor to the editorial page. My city force consisted of one salaried reporter and one reporter who was paid for what he wrote. A city news association lent some assistance.

The smallness of my reportorial force often caused perplexity, and I was, in emergencies, compelled to enlarge it by calling for temporary assistance on any one within reach. I had the pleasure of developing some good journalists in this way. The foreman of the composing room recommended one of his compositors to me as a bright young man who had editorial ambitions. I gave him some assignments, and he speedily made his mark as a political reporter, and has for more than twenty years filled the position of Washington correspondent of the New York Times, E. G. Dunnell. Another young man in the office, not connected with the editorial force, to whom I gave his first reportorial work, was E. A. Dithmar, who has since won a recognized position as a dramatic critic.

The Evening Post at that time was a large four-page sheet. The first page contained a little miscellaneous matter, not much of it original; the editorials were printed on the second page; the so-called first and second edition news (which went to the press at the same hour) occupied what space the advertisements allowed on the third page; and the third and fourth edition news filled the space on the last page. The last edition news of the previous day was always reprinted in the earlier editions of the day following. In seasons of the year when the advertising was heavy the space allowed for edition news was very limited.

In the earlier days, even in metropolitan newspaper offices, the foreman of the composing room was an autocrat in his department who brooked little interference even from the editors. The "make-up editor" was not then invented, and the foreman disposed of the copy and the type largely at his own discretion. The then foreman of the Evening Post, Henry Dithmar, was a man of education and good literary judgment. He spoke and wrote both English and German, and his long connection with the paper had given him a knowledge of men and events which enabled him to correct many an error that had slipped through the editorial rooms. But his views of economy in his office were extreme, and I had many a half-in-earnest contest with him. If late news came in when he had enough matter in type to fill the news space, something like pressure was needed to induce him to set copy which would necessitate the "killing" of other matter already in type. He had his own views, too, about the handling of edition matter, and would often send back to my desk copy which I wanted set at once, with a message that he already had enough to fill the space. But we were warm friends to the day of his death, and when the office occupied its present quarters, there was no difficulty in exercising a larger editorial supervision over his room. Mr. Dithmar afterwards was appointed United States Consul to Breslau, Germany, a position which he filled with much credit.

There were many interesting incidents connected with the inner political history of the Evening Post during my connection with it. The paper had supported the Republican party ever since that party was organized, never concealing, of course, its disapproval of a protective tariff. It seemed, however, in 1872, that there was to be a parting of the ways. The paper found much to criticise in General Grant's administration, and it looked with hope to the Independent Convention in Cincinnati for the nomination of a third ticket, which it could support with zeal, and which, even if not successful, would

blaze the way for a movement that would succeed in later years. Naturally, on both general and personal grounds, the nomination of Horace Greeley by that Convention was a great blow to Mr. Bryant's hopes. He disliked Greeley as a man, and he had fought his tariff views too long to be willing to accept him in any circumstances as a Presidential candidate.

I remember that on the day when the nomination was made, Mr. Bryant was standing near my desk discussing the possible outcome with some of the editors, when a telegram was handed him from the news desk, announcing Greeley's nomination. Looking up, with a quiet twinkle in his eye, he remarked: "Well, there are some good points in Grant's administration, after all."

Mr. Bryant wrote an editorial headed, "Why Mr. Greeley Should Not Be Supported for the Presidency," which was printed on May 4, 1872. It began as follows: "What was at one time regarded as a good joke, the nomination of Horace Greeley for the position of President of the United States, has, by the recent act of the Cincinnati Convention, become sober earnest. It gives a certain air of low comedy to the election in which the country is about to engage, but, in spite of that, the subject is of such a nature, and the public interest is so deeply concerned in it, that we are forced to treat it seriously. We shall, therefore, put together a few reasons why the nomination of Mr. Greeley is unworthy of support."

The first of these reasons was stated as follows: "He lacks the courage, the firmness, and the consistency which are required of the Chief Magistrate of the nation." As specifications under this charge were cited his desire that the Southern States should be allowed to depart in peace, and his peace negotiations with Saunders. The second reason given was: "Mr. Greeley's political associations and intimacies are so bad that we can expect nothing from him, in case, to his own misfortune and ours, he should be elected, but a corrupt



administration of affairs." The principal specification named in this connection was his association with Senator Fenton. The third allegation set forth was: "Mr. Greeley has no settled political principles, with one exception. . . . He is a thorough-going bigoted protectionist, a champion of one of the most arbitrary and grinding systems of monopoly ever known in any country."

Mr. Bryant's personal objection to Mr. Greeley was very strong. He did not class him even in the list of gentlemen. His reference to this was thus stated in the editorial referred to: "The last objection to Mr. Greeley which we shall here mention is the grossness of his manners. General Grant is sometimes complained of as not filling the Executive Chamber with the decorum and dignity which properly belongs to the place; . . . but he is never bearish or brutal, as Mr. Greeley so often is."

The managing editor of the paper at that time was Sidney Howard Gay, who had occupied a similar position under Mr. Greeley, and had no liking for his former chief. The editorial page was principally in Mr. Gay's charge during that year's political campaign, and he took no unimportant part in the attacks on the Liberal-Democratic candidate, which ended in his so disastrous defeat.

There was a very interesting struggle, inside and out, over the position which the Evening Post should take in the Hayes-Tilden campaign of 1876. The paper had been an earnest and able advocate of the resumption of specie payments ever since that question had become a practical one, Parke Godwin lending his energetic pen to the discussion with frequency. A Republican Congress had passed a resumption act, naming a day when resumption should take place; but the subsequent Congresses had been criticised for failing to make that act effective, and the platform adopted by the Republican Convention which had nominated Hayes was not considered vigorous in dealing with this subject. Mr.

Bryant had long been a personal friend of Tilden, and admired the part which he had taken in the overthrow of the Tammany ring and the exposure of the State Canal ring. The paper, too, had drifted into something like open opposition to the Republican Administration at Washington. The use of United States troops in connection with the political



BROAD STREET IN 1796

(From Valentine's Manual)

troubles in Louisiana had caused intense feeling in January, 1875. In New York city this feeling took shape in the calling of a mass-meeting in Cooper Union on January 11, to protest against such use of the Federal forces. Although such Democrats as Manton Marble and August Belmont took part in this gathering, every effort was made to give it an independent character, and Mr. Bryant and William M. Evarts were among the speakers. In the following month

President Grant astonished even radical Republicans by his proclamation asking for the reinstatement of the Brooks Government in Arkansas. Two Senatorial elections that winter gave the Independents in the Republican party some



THE BATTERY IN 1800

(From 'The New Metropolis.' Copyright by D. Appleton & Co)

courage, namely, the defeat of Chandler in Michigan and of Carpenter in Wisconsin, although the latter had secured in his favor a renomination by the Republican legislative caucus.

During all the year 1875 Mr. Tilden's prominence as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency

was maintained, and he himself was too practical a politician not to value at its true worth such support as that of the independent Evening Post. More than one effort was made to have it appear that Tilden's nomination would gain the support of the Evening Post for the Democratic ticket, and in February the newspapers printed a story to the effect that Mr. Bryant, during a recent visit in Albany, had toasted Mr. Tilden as the next Democratic candidate. Mr. Bryant explained in the office that he had simply said that Tilden would be a good man for the candidacy. At that time many persons believed that Grant would be nominated again in 1876. Had he been the Republican candidate then, the Evening Post doubtless would have supported his opponent.

The State elections in the autumn of 1875 showed that the financial question would come to the front in the following year. The Ohio Democrats set the pace with an inflation platform, and the Pennsylvania Democrats followed their lead. Hayes's election in Ohio secured for him the Republican nomination for the Presidency. The position of the Evening Post during the previous fall and winter months was not clearly defined. The office force believed that the Democratic party would offer nothing satisfactory as regards the currency question, and that a tone should be maintained which would render it consistent for the paper to support a good Republican candidate on a sound platform. I find the following in my diary covering that period: "The Evening Post is in a very unsatisfactory position on the State and city political question. Mr. Bryant is the object of advice from this man and that. Sitting in his house uptown, and keeping entirely outside of the current of political news and its bearings, except as he reads it in one or two newspapers, he is easily influenced, and sends down word that this or that is to be, or not to be, said."

But the political outlook at that time was very uncertain. Conkling and Morton were actual possibilities as the Repub-

lican candidates; Bristow, by the following May, when the Fifth Avenue Hotel conference was held, was a possibility in the view of the Independent element, and it was not yet certain whether Tammany could defeat Tilden's nomination or, if he should be nominated, on what kind of a financial plank he would be placed. The result of the national conventions was the nomination of Hayes by the Republicans on a platform that was fairly satisfactory to the sound-money men, and of Tilden on a platform which denounced the resumption clause of the act of 1875 and demanded its repeal "as a hindrance" to resumption. Of the result at Cincinnati the *Evening Post* on June 17 said: "The nomination of Hayes and Wheeler elevates and purifies the canvas beyond what could have been expected under any of the politicians of the Administration."

The Democratic currency plan was a hard pill for any sound-money Independent to swallow. The *New York World*, then influential as the Democratic organ in this city, had told the Democratic Congressional caucus in the previous March: "If the caucus decides to recommend the repeal of this promise [to resume], there is no tongue so persuasive as to induce the people to believe the Democratic party sincere in its demand for resumption." An effort was necessary to reconcile the demand for repeal with a zeal for actual resumption. Mr. Tilden made such an effort in his letter of acceptance, saying: "It cannot be doubted that the substitution of 'a system of preparation' without the promise of a day for the worthless promise of a day 'without a system of preparation' would be the gain of the substance of resumption in exchange for its shadow."

Powerful influence was brought to bear on Mr. Bryant, as soon as the nomination was made, to have his paper support the Democratic ticket. But it did not succeed. An editorial on the nomination, printed on June 29, waved aside all personalities in the campaign (Mr. Tilden's personal

character and some of his financial dealings were attacked at once in the Republican press), and rejoiced over the defeat of Tammany at St. Louis, but said that, in the demand for the repeal of the resumption clause, the Democratic Convention had taken "a step backward," adding, "It demands the naked repeal of the pledge to resume in 1879, and that is the only positive fibre in the plank. . . . Already the people have no faith whatever in the sincerity of the Democratic demand of resumption. Mr. Tilden is reported to have said last night, 'We made a good fight in the Convention on the money plank, and we succeeded there.' This must be a mistake. Such a hard-money man as Tilden must feel rather mortified that he is compelled to stand upon such a soft piece of timber." From that time the Evening Post continued to support the Republican candidate on the Republican financial platform, avoiding the personalities which marked the progress of the campaign. I find the following in my diary under date of September 13, 1876: "Much curiosity has been expressed about the Post's position by persons who knew Mr. Bryant's personal admiration for Tilden. Mr. Bryant has recently written a private letter, saying that he favors Hayes's election because he does not trust the party which supports Tilden. We have tried to have this published, but Mr. Bryant objects. He also writes the managing editor from Massachusetts, where he has been for several weeks, that he thinks the Post is fairly and ably conducted."

The actual parting of the ways which was threatened in 1872 came in 1884, when the paper supported Cleveland against Blaine. The ending of that campaign gave an interesting illustration of the influence of an honestly conducted newspaper in times of political excitement. The returns on the morning after election left the result somewhat in doubt, with a certainty that if Cleveland had carried New York State he was elected. The Associated Press at once began announcing the probable result in that State as indicated by a system

of averages of returns by election districts, saying: "So many election districts indicate so and so; if this ratio is maintained, the Republicans have carried the State by so and so." This system was eagerly accepted by the Blaine press, and the excitement was maintained for several days.

The Evening Post headed its returns the day after the election: "Cleveland Probably Elected," and printed a table giving 213 electoral votes to Cleveland, 122 to Blaine, and leaving 66 doubtful. Dispatches were then sent to every disputed county in the State, asking for the most complete and trustworthy returns of the vote in those counties. In this way the paper was enabled to head its returns the following afternoon: "Cleveland President—New York Gives Him Her Vote." Its table of the electoral votes gave Cleveland 219, Blaine 150, and left 32 in the doubtful list. As late as noon of the following day the Associated Press sent out a statement of returns of "missing districts" with this statement: "If the press footings are correct, and those of the county clerks incorrect, the Republican plurality will be nearly 1,000 in the State." As an indication of the confusion produced by the press returns, I may mention that an acquaintance holding a responsible position in a Blaine newspaper office called at my desk one of those days and said: "Tell me what the actual election returns show. I cannot find out in our office."

The editorial and publication rooms of the Evening Post were moved to their present location in the summer of 1875. Mr. Bryant's friends thought that he was too old to invest his money in the new building, and that structure was erected by Isaac Henderson, Mr. Bryant's partner in the ownership of the newspaper. Mr. Bryant, even in his older days, was a great walker, scorning to use a hack to ride from the Long Island ferry to the office when he came in from Roslyn, and generally walking from the office to his house in Sixteenth Street when he was in the city. When we moved into the

new building he liked to show his independence of the elevator by walking all the way up to the ninth story. Finding one of the associate editors waiting for the elevator one morning, Mr. Bryant asked, "Do you ever walk up?" The much younger editor compromised in his reply by saying with much confidence, "I often walk *down*."

Every department of the newspaper has grown enormously since 1871, and if a comparison were made with the amount of reading matter furnished in any one week now and then, the publisher of to-day would probably wonder how his predecessor of thirty years ago induced any one to buy the paper.

As I look back over all these years I recall no disturbing element among the personal relationships of the editors. As an editor-in-chief, Mr. Bryant did not take active personal supervision, and he brought himself very little in contact with the editorial corps. He had very strict ideas about pure English, and wanted his somewhat famous Index Expurgatorius strictly observed. The various managing editors whom I worked under with him—Charlton T. Lewis, Sidney Howard Gay, Albert G. Brown, and Watson R. Sperry—were of course gentlemen of education and refinement. The radical change in ownership of 1881 gave me new acquaintances—Mr. Godkin, Mr. White, and Mr. Schurz—but under them the delightful personal relations of the past were always maintained, and when I myself, in the spring of 1900, found it necessary to release myself from the exactions of office duties, I had the pleasure of knowing that I had left a friend in every one of my associates.



## Staff Reminiscences—I I.

*By John Ranken Towse, Dramatic Critic and Former  
City Editor*

**I**N the gradual development of New York journalism during the last quarter of a century there is, perhaps, no more striking fact—at all events to the professional mind—than the gradual substitution of the evening for the morning paper as the chief purveyor of news, the reference being not only to local and domestic intelligence, but to a majority of the most important occurrences in all parts of the civilized world. The explanation of it, of course, is exceedingly simple, being found in the enormous multiplication in all directions of the facilities for the collection and prompt transmission of every item affecting public or private interests, and the accident of geographical position, which, owing to differences of longitude, enables the afternoon paper here to report the happenings of most of the waking, that is to say, the busiest hours of Europe. So far as the eastern hemisphere is concerned, the New York morning paper has a monopoly only of the not very fruitful news period between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M.

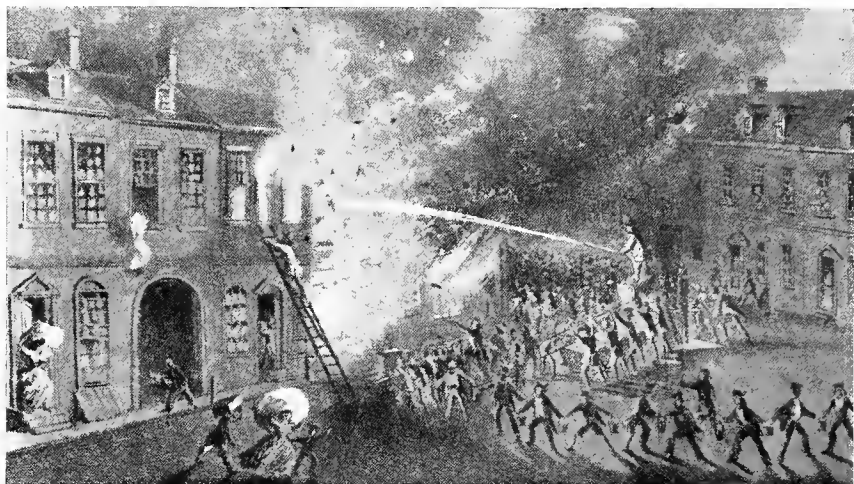
The conditions were altogether different thirty-one years ago, when I first knew the *Evening Post*. The telegraphic service, even between the great cities, was in its comparative infancy; telephones had not yet begun to disturb the dreams of inventors, and the transatlantic cable was an expensive luxury, which was used as sparingly as possible. On ordinary

days the total amount of news copy received from all sources was less than that which is now delivered every half-hour. The office was then in the old and rather rickety building at the northwest corner of Liberty and Nassau Streets. The publication department was on the first floor, the editorial rooms—five in number, and not very large at that—were on the third floor with the composing-room; a job-printing department was overhead, and the newspaper presses were in the basement. In the composing-room were about twenty-five hands, a force deemed amply sufficient to set up the advertisements and all the other matter for the unwieldy four-page blanket sheet which was then published. This alone will give an idea, to the initiated, of the amount of news matter that reached the desk of the copy-cutter. By comparison the editorial force was large. At the head of it, of course, was William Cullen Bryant, with Charles Nordhoff as his right-hand man, general executive officer, and leader writer. Other editorial writers were Charlton T. Lewis, John R. Thompson, the literary editor, and one or two others, who need not be specified, as this was a period of change. Mr. Parke Godwin, at this particular time, was an infrequent contributor to the paper, although closely identified with it earlier, and again for many years later on. Dr. A. C. Wilder, who is still living at an advanced age, was political correspondent at Albany, and, when the Legislature was not in session, exercised some sort of supervision over local political news, and William Francis Williams attended to musical, dramatic, and artistic affairs. Augustus Maverick, whose later fate was tragic, had charge of the telegraphic desk, and there was a city editor, with a single reportorial assistant to look after the local news, most of which was furnished by one of two rival news associations, both of which long ago perished of inanition, complicated with incompetency. Of the outside force, the most notable figure was the financial editor, the late Newton F. Whiting, a man of remarkable ability, great

energy, acute judgment, and inflexible character, whose premature death was not only a source of profound grief to his immediate associates, but called forth a rare tribute of respect from the magnates of Wall Street.

In the light of modern developments, the news service of that not very remote day was shockingly devoid of initiative, enterprise, or imagination. It was conducted in narrow ruts, but it had the conspicuous merit of being fairly accurate. Much importance was attached to facts, but space was precious, composition slow, and the current arts of decorative lying were severely discouraged. The Herald's yarn about the escape of all the wild beasts in Central Park was regarded as a masterpiece of audacity, almost equal to the famous moon hoax. People were so unsophisticated as to discuss its morality. A story that would fill three or four pages to-day was dismissed in as many columns. No more was given to the Nathan murder, whose ghastly details set the whole city shuddering. Possibly, everything looked smaller then, when the dire tragedies of the civil war were still fresh in all men's memories. At all events, the sense of proportion was manifested in reporting, possibly because there was no great unattached body of special writers, devourers of space, who could be procured at a moment's notice. It was only when there was some topic of overpowering public interest, such as a Black Friday crash in Wall Street, or the political earthquake which shattered the Tweed ring, that repetition and padding were tolerated to an unlimited extent. The "special article," except on some special occasion, was seldom seen, except in the Sunday editions, and the province of the magazines was still uninvaded. Interviews, except on financial or political topics, were rare, and the discussion of matters of minor interest was left largely to the occasional, and unpaid, correspondent. Routine ruled. Each paper had a man, or a part of a man, at the City Hall, to gather the dry details, which were published afterwards in the City Record, and another at

Police Headquarters, where was a reportorial cabal, or Trust—contemptible, but potent and by no means unskilful—to keep the news from journalistic rivals and further certain dark and paltry interests, personal and political. The reporter who was out of it, dependent solely upon the unilluminative police “returns,” had a very hard road to travel. Delayed informa-



N. Y. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1840

(From Valentine's Manual)

tion was a serious matter before distance was annihilated by the telephone, and horse-cars, as a rule, the only means of transit. The police courts and the law courts were covered, after a fashion, by the news associations, and sometimes very noteworthy feats in long-hand manifold reporting were accomplished, notably by Mr. Johns, a one-legged veteran of the war, and a trained lawyer, who has never been excelled, if ever equalled, for rapidity and accuracy.

Another center of information was the Coroners' office, a

very hotbed of political abominations, the fair haven of Tammany heelers. A huge ruffian, known as "Soger Flynn," was one of the presiding geniuses, and he and his bodyguard, including the notorious "Dick" Enwright, and others, long since gone to their account, were the heroes of the First Ward toughs. All the work was done by deputies, while the Coroners heaped up fraudulent fees, revelled, like Anthony, late o' nights, and grew rich, even after paying their contributions to the Tammany coffers. The news of Brooklyn, except when some great event was impending—as, for instance, a combined hunt by police and military for illicit stills in the navy-yard district—was furnished by some of the local reporters, and there were similar arrangements for Jersey City and Newark, Long Island City, and a few other points. For many years, the veteran J. G. Towndrow, not very long dead, personally collected and retailed all the news of Westchester County. It was only with the extension of the local telegraph service that a thorough system of suburban reporting was gradually developed.

In the early days of my apprenticeship Charles Nordhoff, following, of course, the general directions of Mr. Bryant, was the active manager of the paper. He was then in the very prime of life, and his well-knit, active figure, his keen eyes glittering through spectacles, and his brusque, authoritative speech, constituted a striking personality. He was a quick-tempered, emphatic, but thoroughly just and kindly man, intolerant only of subterfuge or meanness. There was much of the sailor in his free and easy manner and his quick decision. He was an inveterate smoker of big and strong cigars, which he held in the center of his mouth, and as he wrote—with characteristic, unhesitating energy—he used to envelop himself in such clouds that it was a marvel sometimes how he could see either pen or paper. His unaffected simplicity, his conspicuous honesty, and his sense of humor more than atoned for his occasional hastiness, and when he

left the office, he carried with him the hearty good will of all his subordinates. Mr. Bryant was a man who commanded respect rather than affection. Studiously courteous in all his communications with the juniors of his staff, he yet conveyed the impression of being cold and distant. In his address, as in his writing, he was a precisian. He prided himself, and with reason, upon his remarkable preservation of his physical powers. Long after he had passed the Scriptural limit of three score years and ten, he could run up stairs with the light step of youth, and it was only in his latest days that his eyesight became impaired. His handwriting was minute and beautifully clear and firm, and he had a curious thrifty habit of utilizing old scraps of paper for editorial purposes. I received a note from him written on the flap of an envelope a few minutes before he left the office on the day of his fatal seizure. Possibly they were the last words he ever penned, but I threw them into the waste-basket after reading them, and so lost an interesting autograph. Dignified as he was, he could unbend upon occasion. I remember once seeing him seize the lintel of the door leading into his room and raise and lower himself several times by the arms to show the good condition in which he kept himself by constant exercise. One of his occasional visitors was Peter Cooper, and as they talked together, they presented a striking illustration of healthy old age.

In strong and painful contrast with this hoary vigor was the fragile figure of John R. Thompson, a man still in early middle life, but in the last stages of consumption. He fought his merciless malady with cheery patience and indomitable courage, sticking to his post until he was almost in extremis. He seemed rather to resent the popularity of his 'Carcassonne,' not because he did not think well of it, but because it monopolized the attention which he thought ought to be bestowed upon some of his other poetical pieces. Another person who played an important part in the internal economy of the office

in those days was the foreman of the composing-room, Mr. Dithmar, who possessed considerable learning, a masterful temper, and marked executive ability. Proficient in several modern languages, he was a frequent contributor, principally of translated articles, and his large fund of general information and strong common sense made him a valuable counsellor. He retired from the office after long service to become United States Consul at Breslau.

Death has carried off many of the habitual frequenters of those dingy old rooms, but some still survive. Among them are Dr. Field, formerly of the Evangelist, Du Chaillu, of gorilla fame, Bronson Howard, who was an editorial writer in the first days of his success with "Saratoga," Carl Schurz, Charlton T. Lewis, the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, and a dwindling handful of Evening Post men. Thirty years is a long time.



# Three Veteran Employees

*Men Who Have Given Long and Faithful Service to  
The Evening Post*

MORRIS VAN VLIET

THE superintendent of the Evening Post composing-room, which includes the stereotyping and proof-reading departments, Morris Van Vliet, was born in Saratoga Springs in 1839, and after a taste of farm life as a boy began his apprenticeship as a printer in 1853 in the office of the Wayne Sentinel, of Palmyra, N. Y. After working as journeyman in several Western cities, he enlisted and served two years in the Third New York Volunteer Infantry, Company E. His service ended, Mr. Van Vliet entered the well-known office of Weed, Parsons & Co., in Albany, N. Y., going from there to the Corning (N. Y.) Journal as foreman. He served in the same capacity the Rochester Democrat (1871-78) and the Elmira Advertiser. In 1883 he took charge of the Evening Post composing-room. Mr. Van Vliet's son, Edward, is assistant superintendent of the composing-room, under his father.

During Mr. Van Vliet's connection with the Evening Post the revolutions effected by the stereotyping process and the linotype machines have been accomplished. The mechanical staff of the Evening Post is noted among printers as the most competent in the country. It comprises a number of men whose term of service exceeds thirty years, two men who are approaching their half-century mark, and one man, Mr. Robert Davis, who has been sixty years in the office. For character and skill there is no better body of men in the business than the mechanical staff of the Evening Post.



They not only represent the best type of the intelligent, self-reliant American workman, but are fortunate in being free from any labor-union tyranny. The Evening Post office was for years the only non-union one in New York city. Every man in the composing-room is there because of his manifest fitness, and not because he is carried on the rolls of a union.

Mr. Van Vliet took charge of the Evening Post immediately after the strike which resulted in the ousting of Typographical Union No. 6, and under his management the office has steadily progressed in such a manner as to make Mr. Van Vliet pre-eminent in his occupation, and known far beyond the limits of New York city. In addition, he has the warm regard of every man and boy connected with the Evening Post, which he has earned by his long and remarkably faithful service.



MORRIS VAN VLIET

Superintendent of the Evening Post Composing-room

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JOHN YOUNG

The foreman of the Evening Post press-room, John Young, has seen nearly forty years in this newspaper's

employ. Mr. Young was born in New York in 1839, and is still in the prime of life. His apprenticeship was served in the Sun office, whence he came to the Evening Post in 1862. In 1875, when the move was made from Liberty Street to



JOHN YOUNG

Foreman of the Press-Room

Broadway, he was made foreman of the press-room. Mr. Young's experience in the Evening Post office covers the revolution effected in the press-room by the introduction of stereotyping and the web press. In 1875 the paper was printed upon the eight-cylinder press, a monumental affair, nearly twice as big as the present presses used. It required eight men and four boys to work, besides another machine to do the folding. It printed 10,000 copies an hour of the old four-page blanket sheet, equivalent to the same

number of our present eight-page papers. The modern web presses now in use, with the aid of four men and one boy each, print and fold 48,000 copies of the paper in one hour.

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#### ROBERT DAVIS

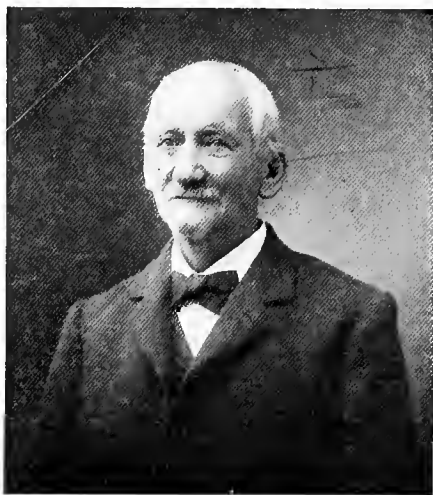
The oldest employee upon the Evening Post in point of service is Mr. Robert Davis, for many years assistant foreman

of the composing-room, who has spent sixty years of continuous work upon the paper. He entered the office as a boy of thirteen and is now in his seventy-third year. He has known no other employer, and, until the last few years or upon extraordinary occasions, has never been absent from office in business hours. While he now spends but half a day in the composing-room, leaving the office at noon, Mr. Davis is still hale and hearty, a man of kindly nature, respected and trusted by all who know him. One of his sons and a grandson are now employed upon the Evening Post.

In talking over his life, Mr. Davis said: "I was a New York boy, born November 26, 1828, in Hester Street, which was then quite a respectable place. When I was thirteen I entered Mr. Bryant's employ as an apprentice in the press-

room of the Evening Post. I was the 'fly-boy.' The paper was printed on a cylinder press worked by a man who turned a crank. The fly-boy took off each printed sheet from the press. So far as I can remember, we went to press about two o'clock. After the edition was worked off we apprentices had to deliver the papers. My route took me through Wall Street. The Evening Post office was then at No. 27 Pine Street.

"The composing-room, into which I was graduated somewhere about 1845, had a force of not more than ten men, but



ROBERT DAVIS

The Oldest Employee of the Evening Post

the amount of typesetting done for the daily papers then was insignificant as compared to later years. Most of our advertisements remained standing for months without a change. Everything was done in leisurely fashion. The rush and hurry of recent years, due to Wall Street, was still unknown. Work began at seven A.M. and stopped at six, with an hour for dinner. When I had a day off I used to walk out into the

fields beyond Fourteenth Street. The city stopped there. When I delivered papers Wall Street had still a number of private houses. I can remember well the large church that stood in Wall Street, between Nassau and Broadway, opposite New. Benedict's jewelry and clock store stood at the corner of New and Wall.

"During my life I have seen the candles displaced by gas and the gas by electricity. The telegraph, telephone, the



BOGERT'S BAKERY

Broadway and Cortlandt Street, 1801. (Present site of Benedict Building)

web presses, printing from a roll of paper, stereotyping, the linotype machines that enable one compositor to do the work of five men at the case—all these changes in the making of a newspaper have been accomplished in my day. I sometimes wonder whether my grandson, when he comes to give an account of his sixty years upon the Evening Post, will have any such revolutions to review."

## THE LUNCHEON.

In connection with the centennial of the Evening Post, the trustees of the New York Evening Post Company received and accepted the following invitation :

“NEW YORK, October 28, 1901.

“Wendell Phillips Garrison, Esq., Secretary The Evening Post and Nation.

“Dear Sir: We learn that the Evening Post is preparing November 16th next to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of its existence and progress, and is making preparation therefor by publishing an extraordinary issue of the paper, for the benefit and enjoyment of its patrons and of the community.

“We think that, in view of the record of the Evening Post, it is fitting that there should be some reciprocal action on the part of the community, in recognition of so interesting an event.

“Desiring to give some expression of our appreciation of the zeal and efforts of the Evening Post in the interest of good government and good citizenship, its maintenance in journalism of high moral and literary ideals, we beg to invite the gentlemen in the management of the Evening Post, its editorial staff and officers, to a complimentary luncheon, to be given November 16th inst. at 1:30 P. M., at the Equitable Library Dining-Room, No. 120 Broadway.

“Hoping to receive a favorable response to this invitation, we have the honor to remain, with great respect,

“Yours,

“Abram S. Hewitt, John G. Carlisle, Charles S. Fairchild, John A. Stewart, Levi P. Morton, Daniel S. Lamont, J. Pierpont Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, James J. Hill, William B. Hornblower, Wager Swayne, Stewart L. Woodford, John S. Kennedy, William E. Dodge, Francis Lynde Stetson, James W. Alexander, D. O. Mills, Robert C. Ogden, John E. Parsons, John A. McCall, William J. Curtis, George G. Williams, James Speyer, Richard A. McCurdy, Joseph C. Hendrix, Wheeler H. Peckham, Franklin H. Giddings, Oakleigh Thorne, Edward L. Burlingame, William Nelson Cromwell,

A. P. Hepburn, Charles H. Raymond, George F. Crane, John Bassett Moore, James T. Woodward, George W. Young, John Crosby Brown, Charles Scribner, John J. M'Cook, Edmund Clarence Stedman, R. R. Bowker, George L. Rives, John Dewitt Warner, Morris K. Jesup, Frank J. Mather, Hamilton W. Mabie, George Haven Putnam, James H. Hyde, E. M. Grout, Charlton T. Lewis, Robert A. Granniss, F. D. Tappen, Frederic Cromwell, James McKeen, S. D. Babcock, Samuel Thorne, Gustav H. Schwab, Alexander E. Orr, James H. Canfield, James Grant Wilson, Gustav Pollak, Charles Stewart Smith, Nelson Taylor, George A. Plimpton, James C. Carter, Robert Bridges, Charles A. Schieren, J. Armory Haskell, Hector C. Tindale, Frank H. Dodd, Everett P. Wheeler, Russell Sturgis, J. S. Billings, Edward Cooper, Anson Phelps Stokes, William W. Appleton, Gage E. Tarbell, William H. McIntyre, Richard Watson Gilder, Edward M. Shepard, Vernon H. Brown, Frederick F. Cook, James D. Hague, Fabian Franklin, Austen G. Fox, Chauncey Depew, William H. Baldwin, Jr., Thomas L. Greene, Silas B. Brownell, Robert W. De Forest, Edward Winslow."

At the request of the hosts at the luncheon, the Evening Post printed the details in full.

The presiding officer was the Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, who opened the formal proceedings with the following words:

"The gates of Heaven having been temporarily opened to allow the angels [the ladies had just entered] to pass out and pass in [applause], I proceed to perform a duty which has fallen to my lot—how, I know not, and why, I cannot tell. This tribute of affection and admiration for an institution is something unprecedented in this city, and I think perhaps in the world. It is due to a spontaneous expression that no man organized and no man has formulated. When it was suggested to me that I should sign an invitation to the editorial staff of the Evening Post to receive from their hosts an expression of their love and affection, I confess it seemed to me as if a patent of nobility had been conferred upon me. [Applause.] And so it must be with every gentleman who has received the honor of being permitted to be a host on this occasion. It seems to me that every one among them feels that he has a better title to immortality by reason of the fact that the Evening Post has survived to celebrate, or have celebrated for it, its one hundredth anniversary. [Applause.]

"I do not think that any of us have realized how large a part of our daily life, of our domestic happiness, has been due to the existence of this remarkable journal. I have known it personally for more than sixty years. I was not conscious that the Evening Post had, I am sorry to say, somewhat usurped the place of the Bible in my daily studies, but perhaps there is this

justification, that the Bible does not profess to be superior [laughter], whereas the Evening Post comes to us daily in the attitude of an authority which we are bound to respect, and, if we can, to obey. [Laughter.]

“I know that this assemblage is chiefly made up of the friends of the Evening Post, and the reason I know it is this, that when I look in your faces, I see that every man here has, at one time or another in the course of his career, received its friendly chastisement. [Laughter and applause.] Whom the Evening Post loveth it chasteneth. [Laughter.] This attitude of superiority was modestly disclaimed by the original founder of the Evening Post. He said that he made no claims to infallibility. He did not know what he was saying. He could not look forward to one hundred years of such editorial work as the Evening Post has received at the hands of Coleman, Bryant, Leggett and Godkin, and now in the hands of our good friend, Mr. White. [Applause.] If ever there were a body of men who had any right to the claim of infallibility, surely it is the gentlemen whom I have named, and that fact will be recognized by every inhabitant of the city of New York. [Applause.]

“But a paper so constituted could not have existed one hundred years if there had not been an audience of superior persons who received its admonitions and sustained it in its career of independent criticism. Hence, looking around, I think I can say that this audience represents—and I think I can say it without vanity—it represents the best elements of this great city. [Applause.] Yes, we are permitted to belong to a mutual admiration society, for there is not one of us who has not in the course of the last thirty or forty years had occasion to bolt from his party. We are the off horses of this great city, and we know it, and we are proud of it, and the Evening Post has been our prophet. [Applause.]

“Now I am admonished, not only by my own physical condition, but by the fact that there is a long list of speakers whom you wish to hear, that my own remarks must come to a termination. My friend Carnegie, who seems to have disappeared [he was sitting behind the speaker], reminded me when I saw him of a song I heard in the Highlands of Scotland. I went to what they call a cake-and-wine festival, and it was a rather dreary affair; but at length some one was asked to sing, and he sang a Highland song that I never heard before, and have never heard since, and never want to hear again. [Laughter.] But there was one line in it that constantly recurred. I see my friend Kennedy knows what is coming—one line which always came up:

‘Mic, Mac, Methuselah, is a very superior person.’

Now I think that expresses more clearly than anything I can say of the Evening Post, in whose honor we have met here to-day. Mic, Mac, Methuselah, one hundred years—for the Post is a very superior person. And I say

that with the full knowledge that persons in the individual sense grow old and unfortunately have to pass away; but we are here to congratulate the Post, not on having grown old, but on having grown young and younger and younger every day since we have known it, until now, having passed by all the perils of infancy and all the trials of a rather lusty and rapid boyhood, it stands before us in the maturity of its powers, with the greatest possibilities of usefulness in the future, which other newspapers may envy, but none can ever hope to rival.

“Those of the gentlemen present into whose hands the custody of this great—I was going to say property, but I will not use the word—into whose hands this great responsibility has fallen (for it is a tremendous responsibility to occupy the position of the Post in this country, with its record on the side of truth and justice and public order and sound government), must keep the standard high. The banner which was raised by William Coleman, which was sustained by William C. Bryant, which has had the coöperative aid of Godkin and Bigelow and Leggett—above all, has been held aloft by the hands of these gentlemen—must never be allowed to trail on the ground, so that when our posterity come together a hundred years hence they may say, ‘You are worthy sons of worthy sires; you have brought no disgrace upon the structure they built up, which has commanded the admiration not only of this, but of every country in the world where truth and justice and liberty are loved.’ These gentlemen may pass their responsibility to their successors with the proud consciousness that they live in a community and country where every good deed, every noble thought, every inspiration of honor is recognized, and the spontaneous tribute of admiration will be brought to them and their successors as it is now brought to the altar of the men who founded and have conducted the Evening Post to this day. [Applause.]

“Gentlemen, in behalf of the hosts who are here assembled I give you the toast: Congratulations to the Evening Post on its vigorous majority at the age of 100, support in every good work which it may hereafter undertake, and the certainty that the Evening Post will continue to be, in the future as in the past, the bulwark of order, liberty, truth, and justice.

“I call upon Mr. Horace White to respond for the Evening Post.”

Mr. White said in response :

“Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: When my associates and myself heard that a movement was on foot in the highest professional and business circles of New York to do honor to the Evening Post on the occasion of its hundredth anniversary, we were equally surprised and gratified. We realized that such a tribute was an expression of your approval of the general character and history of the journal which is temporarily in our charge. We knew that it was a



testimonial of your regard for the illustrious men who have preceded us, and that we share in it only because, in your opinion, we have been true to their ideals and to the principles of journalism which they espoused. Coleman, Bryant, Leggett, Bigelow, Godwin, Schurz, and Godkin sought, first of all things, the public good, as they understood it. It is not given to all men to be as brilliant with the pen as they, but others can be as true as they to public interests. What the Evening Post has been in the past you know, and your presence here testifies. All that I need to say of the future is that if we fail to keep it at the level where its founders placed it, and where their successors kept it during the whole of the nineteenth century, you, gentlemen, will be quick to discern the change, and we shall forfeit your confidence. That will be our deserved and sufficient punishment.

“Now I am far from supposing that you agree with all that the Evening Post has said in the past. I know that mistakes have been made, and that I have made mistakes. I am one of those who are willing, and glad, to correct errors when convinced that they are errors. I am equally willing to change a policy on concrete public questions when convinced that it is a wrong policy. And in this particular my associates are of one mind with myself. I cannot conceive of independent journalism on any other basis. Pride of opinion should always yield to the dictates of reason and conscience. But in taking a survey of journalism for fifty years, which my age enables me to do, I think that the Evening Post has had as little need to alter its judgment on broad questions of policy as any newspaper in the world.

“You may ask what I mean by independent journalism. That phrase has more than one signification. It is sometimes used to signify mere neutrality between political parties. A newspaper of this kind aims to offend neither party, so that it may gain patronage from both. That is not independence. An independent journal must offend both parties, and all parties, or must hold itself ready to offend when they go wrong. A political party is composed of men who have joined together for various reasons and purposes—some to promote public interests, others to get office, others to get jobs and to plunder the taxpayers. There is a tendency in political parties to fall under the control of the office-seekers and the jobbers and robbers, because they give all their time to party management. Such a condition may exist while the mass of the party is as upright as the twelve apostles. Indeed, the masses of all political parties are upright. They *are* the public, and they seek the public welfare. Most commonly, however, they believe that their own party cannot go wrong, or at any rate cannot go so wrong as the other party certainly will, if it comes into power. This is party spirit. It has existed in all ages and in all countries, and has by no means been restricted to the uneducated classes. Even Dr. Johnson, in defining the word Whig in his dictionary, said that ‘the Devil was the first Whig.’

"Now, it is the duty of an independent journal to tell the public what the party leaders are doing, both when they are doing well and when they are doing ill, and to point out the consequences of their acts. And here let me read you a few words clipped from an old editorial of the Evening Post, which I judge from its consummate style was written by my predecessor, Mr. Godkin:

" 'Nothing does more to diminish the influence of the press and to enable even knaves to despise its criticisms than the too common editorial practice of agreeing beforehand, in return for circulation, to eat every dish, however nauseous or injurious, a political convention may prepare. It is, of course, open to any man to decide for himself that he will, on grounds of public safety or expediency, vote for a candidate who does not come up to his standard either of integrity or capacity, provided he does it in silence, or, if he defends it, defends it on true grounds. A public journal, however, can discharge no duty in silence. Its function is to talk about what men are thinking most about, and, above all, to furnish its readers with reasons for doing this or leaving that undone. When a nomination is made, it has either to commend or condemn it, and its first duty to its readers is to make its commendation or condemnation sincere and truthful. This it cannot do if it be under any sort of obligation to applaud the action of a party convention under all circumstances. This it must do if its applause is, in the long run, to be worth much. A journal which is known to be ready to eat its own words, to make black appear white, and white black, to recommend in the strongest terms for the highest office this year a man whom it last year described as unfit for even the lowest, cannot render a party much service. Its opinion can hardly have any great influence on the fortunes of a canvass. Readers who seek from a newspaper any assistance in forming a judgment on public affairs are generally among the first to be disgusted by undisguised unscrupulousness, tergiversation, or venality.'

"An independent journal, if it is true to its calling, will offend all political parties by turn—will offend them more or less—but it will find compensation in the existence of a growing body of independent citizens, both men and women. Independent citizenship may exist without an independent press, but without that daily stimulus its growth will be slow and its existence precarious. Do you ask for an illustration of the value of independent citizenship? No more splendid one could be found than the recent municipal campaign in New York, and I am not sure but the best part of it was the nomination of Edward M. Shepard by Tammany Hall. There is such a thing as 'pandering to decent public opinion,' but you may be sure that Tammany would never have pandered in that way, and to that extent, if there had not been a great and growing mass of independent citizenship in New York, to the growth of which Mr. Shepard has himself so largely contributed.

“But independence of party is not the only mark and sign of an independent newspaper. The proximity of Wall Street leads me to say that it must be independent of financial influences also. It must have no pecuniary interest to warp its judgment, either in the stock market, or in the broader public affairs which have to do with money. People who do business in Wall Street are quick to detect in a newspaper the existence of a pecuniary influence. They can judge pretty accurately whether the opinions it expresses in its editorial columns are paid for or not. They can generally tell whether the conductor of its financial columns is speculating or not. I know that if the Evening Post were under any suspicions of this kind, no such testimonial as the present could have taken place, and that the faces I see before me would not be here.

“Independence of Wall Street suggests independence of cash in general. A newspaper should be as independent of its own counting-room as of other people’s. This is the severest test of independence, because the temptation to swerve from it is ever present, and the forms of temptation are extremely insidious and of almost infinite variety and shading; because, also, it frequently happens that the ownership of the paper is not identical with the editorship. The owner of a newspaper, if he is not the editor, will generally expect a certain amount of income from it, and will be apt to find fault with any management of the columns which offends either subscribers or advertisers. I have been in positions of editorial responsibility, here and elsewhere, for thirty years, and have never been obliged to argue a question of newspaper ethics with the business manager. That has been my good fortune. But I know many editors who have been, and are, daily subjected to that grind. They are not free agents. Such a man works with a rope around his neck. The business manager in such a case is not generally a bad fellow. He is not a tyrant or a miser. He does not consciously go wrong. He sees things through glasses different from those of the editor. It has been his calling, his training, his trade, to look at the cash-box as the main thing in the newspaper, and very often the same rope that is around the editor’s neck is around his also.

“I allude to these things not for the purpose of blaming or fault-finding, but to point out a tendency of the times. The tendency is for newspapers, especially the prosperous ones, to pass into the hands of men who look upon them as money-making ventures merely—a condition not favorable to independence, since independence is a faculty of the brain, not of the pocket. Yet there has been a counter-current running in the opposite direction all the time, and it is certain that independent journalism has gained rather than lost ground during the past quarter of a century. The number of newspapers which may be fairly classed as independent is greater now than at any other time in our history, and the degree of independence is higher now than ever before. I believe, too, that for every newspaper which passes under the

domination of party power, or of the money power, a new one will be found to take its place in the ranks of the independent press. At all events, gentlemen, you can always have such newspapers as you prefer. There will always be good papers and bad ones, and indifferent ones; there will always be independent journals and party journals and yellow journals for you to choose from, and you will find that the independent ones are just as good newspapers as their competitors in the same field. It is the condition of existence with the independent press, as of every other kind, that it shall keep up with the procession. However wise, logical, moral, and high-toned a journal may be, unless it is abreast of the times in the collection and arrangement of news, it will be a dead failure. No human being will buy a daily newspaper merely because it has a fine history, or merely to keep it alive. I would not do so myself. The present managers of the Evening Post realize that neither its past record nor its present character will be of any use to itself, or to the public, unless the paper is worth the full price asked for it.

"Now, in the name of all who are associated together in the offices of the Evening Post, and of those still living who have been so associated in the past, and of those who have gone over to the majority, I give you hearty thanks for this unexpected demonstration of approval and good will—unparalleled, I think, in the annals of the American press."

At the close of Mr. White's address, Mr. Hewitt said :

"There is only one phrase which meets the case: *Post hoc, ergo propter hoc*. *Propter hoc* is, however, on the other side of the East River, and is represented by a paper which is treading very close upon the heels of the Evening Post in point of age, and has always thought itself a little more independent and slightly superior to the Evening Post. Mr. McKelway we all know—the representative of the competing press. He will now express his opinions on the subject."

Mr. McKelway replied :

"Mr. President and Friends : Mr. Hewitt has said that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth; and that the Evening Post does the same. I wish to report from Scripture the result of the policy on those subjected to it: 'Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby.' [Laughter.]

"It is true that I do represent a paper on the other side of the East River, but there the accuracy of Mr. Hewitt's statement ceases, and the liveliness of his imagination and the loveliness of his heart begin. We have never

claimed to be superior to the Post. We knew, before newspapers were, the penalty of a too arrogant claim to superiority, which resulted in the writing of 'Paradise Lost.' [Laughter.] We were content to follow afar off, not as having attained, but as 'would-be' attainers, in the security of distance, under the inspiration of example and by the encouragement of unity of motive affected by a relation to the inequality of ability on our part. [Applause.]

"It is a fact that the paper of which I have the happiness and the honor to be editor, the Eagle, not long ago passed and celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. The New York Evening Post to-day celebrates its one hundredth anniversary. Were age excellence, the claim of either paper to excellence would be established. But age is only a term of duration, and a relative term at that. Sixty years stupid instead of sixty years old or sixty years excellent, could be affirmed of some institutions. A hundred years dull, instead of a hundred years old or a hundred years excellent, could be affirmed of other institutions. In the newspaper business, however, age must signify something more than mere or sheer duration. A printed thing that can live for a hundred years must indeed have life in it. A printed thing that cannot only live for a hundred years, but can appear in daily renewal all that time, must not only have life in it, but must also have strength, a reason for being, a demand for itself, a function, a purpose, a mission, a justification in the world. [Applause.]

"This is especially so with a daily newspaper. There is no fortune on earth that could stand the strain of a losing daily for a century. The fortune, if enormously great, might not be exhausted by such a strain, but it would be so depleted, and the depletion would not only be so weakening, but so mortifying, that three or four generations of the holders of such a fortune would get tired, and they would stop carrying the load. I say this with becoming caution (turning to Mr. Carnegie) in the presence of monumental plutocracy contemporaneously ameliorated by monumental philanthropy. [Loud applause.] The mere fact that the Evening Post has lasted a hundred years is in itself a proof of its excellence, of its power, of the need of it, and of the field it found, made, and increased for itself. By a paradox in journalism venerableness is vigor, age is youth, to be old is to be young, the first is the weakest, the last is the strongest, and the latest is the best. History in the case of a newspaper is not the taking on of decrepitude, with its pathetic or repulsive incidents. It is the constant renewal of youth, the perpetual increase of strength, the perennial increment of power, faculty, usefulness, influence. [Applause.]

"Those who think that what is new and bad would be praised, were it old and no better, and those who think what is old and good is praised only because it is old, and not also because it is good, were rebuked by Dr. Samuel Johnson in his Preface to his Shakespeare, in language with which I propose to paralyze the ablest stenographers present. Said Dr. Johnson: 'That praises

are without reason lavished on the dead, and that the honors due only to excellence are paid to antiquity, is a complaint likely to be always continued by those who, being able to add nothing to truth, hope for eminence from the heresies of paradox; or those who, being forced by disappointment upon consolatory expedients, are willing to hope from posterity what the present age refuses, and flatter themselves that the regard, which is yet denied by envy, will be at last bestowed by time.' [Laughter and applause.]

"And this is not contradiction or sophistry or mystery. It is simply due to logical causes. The newspaper is the monitor, the mirror, the microcosm of its century, of its half-century, of its quarter-century, of its decade, of its lustrum, of its year, of its month, of its day, of its hour. That is why world, church, science, art, business, education, philanthropy, culture, being more and meaning more now than they were and meant before, the newspaper reflecting them all, ministering to them all, and itself ministering to all in turn, is better, broader, stronger now than it was before. That is why old is young, and age is youth; and a century is an evidence not of senility, but of lusty juvenescence in journalism. For that reason the sixty-one years' young Eagle salutes the one hundred years' young Evening Post and wishes to it innumerable renewals of an everlasting life. [Applause.]

"The Eagle is able to do this, not merely from the standpoint of its own length and strength of days, but also from the fact that the Evening Post and itself are more really in sympathy than their frequent controversies would superficially indicate. Between the two papers have been differences of views, but the outlook has always been on the same road. Between them have been almost quarrels about methods, but the objects each has sought have been spiritually the same. Between them have been variances of estimate of parties and of personages. But that has been due more to the many sides which such parties and personages have presented to observation than to any serious disagreement about the essentials of character, or of policy, or of purpose to be considered. Colonel Damas, by the pen of Bulwer, said: 'I always like a man after I have fought with him.' The rest goes without saying. [Laughter and applause.]

"From the first year of the Presidency of Jefferson to the first year of the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt is a long cry. In all that time the Evening Post has been a newspaper and an opinion paper. In all that time statesmen, scholars, moralists, and divines have been divided concerning the Evening Post into two classes: those who agreed with it and those who disagreed with it. Quite often the same man has belonged to both classes, for he would agree with the paper in part and disagree with it in other part. That indicates strong writers and strong readers. [Applause.] The first make the second. A constituency which merely echoes an oracle were better made up

of marionettes than of men. A constituency that an oracle merely echoes is better represented by a phonograph than a paper. The robustness of the Evening Post has been its power. The robustness of its readers has been in turn the inspiration the Evening Post has drawn from them. And among its readers have been about all the editors of light and of leading in the English-speaking world. If the editor is a schoolmaster, the Evening Post has been the schoolmaster of schoolmasters. If a newspaper is a college, the Evening Post has been the instructor in post-graduate journalism of its century. It may be even anathematized in the offices of many organs, but it is unread in none. [Laughter.] It may be abused, scorned, and hated by every opportunist, trimmer, or plunderer in public life, but he fears its censure and he is rebuked by its conscience in the very marrow of his soul and in the thoughts and intents of his heart. The Evening Post may be criticised, quarrelled with, and even denounced by its fellow-reformers, for it never sleeps, and even when it goes to bed it keeps one eye open, and has both spurs on. But, all the same, its fellow-reformers and itself soon get together again, each realizing that Jordan is a hard road to travel, and that while it is given to good men to wish alike and to hope alike and to work alike, it is not given to them to see and to think alike. [Applause.]

“One need not call the roll of the great men gone who made the Evening Post and whom in large part the Evening Post made. They are a precious possession, and they will receive appropriate honor in our contemporary records and in history. Nor need one recall the great men still living, but only in retirement, who have sustained relations of service to the Evening Post and to the Government. They can speak for themselves of the past which they represent to the men of the present who uncover in honor before them. Nor need one speak of the men of the Evening Post of to-day, for their work speaks for them, and their work is their crown, their screen, their justification, and their delight. To-day the Evening Post of the century, epitomized, aggregated, indicated, and vindicated by the Evening Post of this afternoon, is the result to congratulate, and its roll of names, living or dead, is a common roll of uncommon honor. The Eagle knows that it speaks for all its brethren in respectable journalism when it wishes for the Evening Post, and for the men and women of the Evening Post, that satisfaction in their work which the fourth estate as a whole takes out of their work. Such a satisfaction will be more than compensation for all sorrows of misinterpretation. It will be more than inspiration for the duties always confronting the earnest press. It will be renewed dedication to those duties. And that is surely where the conscience of writers, the culture, and the learning, and the courage of writers, the rights and needs of public servants, and the ideals of public life meet and mingle in a goodly and glorious fellowship. That fellowship is attested by the concurrent congratulation and jubilation of all the press to-day concerning the Evening Post. To-

morrow the press will re-address itself to its multiform functions, but it will take from to-day a spirit into those duties that should never be lost. The Eagle, from the baptism of a solemnizing anniversary, extends the right hand of help and of hope to a contemporary which can dedicate the moral and mental wealth of its first century to the destinies and to the duties of its second." [Applause.]

Mr. Carl Schurz was then called to the chair and spoke as follows :

"Ladies and gentlemen : Mr. Hewitt has been unfortunately obliged to leave, and the charge he had among you has fallen upon my unworthy shoulders. I have now the honor of introducing to you a gentleman who has achieved high merit in conducting the literary department of the Evening Post, and who has thus done great service to the literature of the country, Mr. Wendell Phillips Garrison."

Mr. Garrison's remarks were as follows :

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen : My father, on a memorable occasion when he was presented with a gold watch before a company resembling the present, but not so respectable, because in those days 'respectability' was pro-slavery—my father said that if it had been a brickbat, he should have known exactly how to behave; and Mr. Schurz's compliment inflicts upon me a similar embarrassment.

"If I had any general observations to make at this late hour, I fear I could not avoid repeating what has been so well said, and, I may add, what was so obviously to be said. If, on reflection, it should seem to me to be worth while, perhaps I may ask the Congressional 'leave to print.' As it is, I shall confine myself to the one theme which makes me at all content to be heard on this occasion.

"You have, gentlemen (to speak only of the living), missed from the board one figure that shines by its absence. For the larger part of the twenty years of the present ownership of the Evening Post, Mr. Edwin Lawrence Godkin was the man who was emphatically the paper. Infirmary has overtaken him, and he now seeks health and repose on that shore of England which faces America, and from which in his early manhood he crossed to this country, to become one of us, not only through the form of naturalization, but in the sense in which Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln would have recognized him as a birthright American. It was my singular good fortune to be his partner and associate in the Nation and the Evening Post for thirty-five years, and it seemed to me a private duty to speak here the word of admiration and



affectionate remembrance which some one should utter. I believe it is the opinion of all competent critics that not in our day, or even in the whole range of American journalism, has a leader-writer appeared so independent, so sane in judgment, so forcible and philosophic in discussion, so formidable to political cant and humbug, so quickening to the conscience of his habitual readers. Mr. Godkin's style will always remain a model for the aspiring journalist, but it was permeated with a humor, unparalleled in kind and extraordinarily effective, which was the gift of nature. Hammering incessantly on practically one theme, that public office is a public trust—that politics must be divorced from the spoils system—his writing was nevertheless distinguished by incredible freshness and variety, the marvel of those who daily worked beside him. To him more than to any other man we owe the measure of civil-service reform which has been attained in State or nation. [Applause.] In the recent defeat of Tammany he claims a share through his lifelong teaching that democracy cannot exist if party names are allowed to shelter combinations for public plunder for which the only fit designation is brigandage. [Applause.]

“It is true, gentlemen, that Mr. Godkin's labors have ended in disappointment. The American people are far from adopting his standard of Americanism; the cause for which he contended so persistently and so ably is still militant, not triumphant. The reason is that its goal was not simply a change in laws or in institutions, but in the soul of man. The abolition of slavery must have seemed infinitely more hopeless than civil-service reform, but, after all, it was the easier task. Men who had begun it lived to see it achieved. Mr. Godkin's *Thirty Years' War* bids fair to outlast another generation. Let those who witness its conclusion not forget his mighty efforts to purify and redeem the form of government to which he was unalterably attached.” [Applause.]

Mr. Schurz again took the floor with the following words:

“I shall now have the honor to introduce one of the representative readers of the *Evening Post*, and one of the chief illustrations of the legal profession, not only in the City and State of New York, but of the United States of America, Mr. James C. Carter.” [Applause.]

Mr. Carter replied:

“Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen: I feel very proud of the honor of being on this occasion one of the entertainers of the editorial and publishing corps of the *Evening Post*. I feel in that that I am really entertaining an old and highly valued friend, for such, indeed, the *Evening Post* has been to me. When I came, nearly half a century ago, to establish myself in the city of New

York, I came in company with a very dear friend and classmate, long since deceased, William Sidney Thayer, who would be affectionately remembered by Mr. Bigelow and Mr. Godwin if they were here, and who went at once on the editorial staff of the Evening Post; and from that day to this I have been a constant and daily reader of the paper and more or less intimate and familiar with all its editors. I have generally concurred in its opinions. I have almost let it do my thinking for me, and have been, perhaps, too servile a follower. [Applause.]

“But I am here, nevertheless, to-day to acknowledge fifty years of the deepest moral and intellectual indebtedness to it. [Applause.] It is a great record that it has made for this last century, a great and glorious record. It was called by Mr. Hewitt an *institution*; but let me add that it was an institution that was composed of men, and never could have been built up except by men of something like the same temper and quality with those who have been at the head of it. It was the enterprise and intelligence of Mr. Coleman that commenced it. It was the ardor of Mr. Leggett, and the fine intellectual taste, the high moral elevation, and the perfect fearlessness of Mr. Bryant that established it. [Applause.] That work was nobly and grandly carried on by Mr. Godwin, by Mr. Bigelow, and Mr. Schurz himself had a hand in it; and it was carried forward and advanced, as I think, very greatly, for I concur entirely with Mr. Garrison, by Mr. Godkin. His disciplined intellect, his lofty purpose, his brilliant wit, his biting and cutting irony and sarcasm, his rich humor, alternately grave and gay—all exhibited in an English style of unrivalled clearness, purity, and power, and always employed in the advocacy of the noblest causes—these qualities would have made any newspaper in any country great; nor can we forget the preëminent place which the masterly work of Mr. White on financial and economical questions had won for it.

“There was in our friend Hewitt's observations—he touched a sentiment to which this audience was very responsive—something about the assumption of superiority by the Evening Post. Well, that may be so; and it may have excited much antipathy against the paper. I have often heard it said, ‘We love a man for the enemies that he has made,’ and I think we may say that we love the Evening Post for the enemies that it has made; but it is true of the Evening Post in a little different sense from that in which the observation is ordinarily made. When we say we love a man for the enemies he has made, the enemies are commonly among the bad men, and in the case of the Evening Post the enemies it has made are often among good men, and it is a more significant proof of its independence and its virtue.

“I rejoice to say that when any man in public life in America has gone into public life with high ideals, lofty aspirations, great expectations in the minds of the people, and, after he has got there, begins under a variety of influences to temporize, to lower his standard because he thinks it necessary in

order to enable himself to do some great good or in consequence of the presence and the pressure of emergencies—in every such instance as that, that man has received instantly the lash of the Evening Post, and I am glad of it. [Applause.] Such men are not bad by any means; they are not conscious of doing anything that is wrong; they are good men striving to do good; tempted perhaps unduly, sometimes by personal ambitions, sometimes by the overwhelming pressure of emergencies, but tempted or moved by one reason or another, they lower the standard which they had originally raised, and it has been the business of the Evening Post, during the fifty years that I have known anything about it, to uphold and to maintain the highest standards and to require an obedience to them. It may not be always possible in public life, I am quite well aware of that, to always act up to the very highest standard—the circumstances are often very embarrassing; concessions must be made, compromises must be made, but still there must be somebody somewhere, a power somewhere, and a force somewhere, charged with the duty of maintaining those standards. [Applause.] That has been the business and the function of the Evening Post for a century, and nobly has the work been performed; but those good men upon whom its criticism sometimes falls wish for its approval, think they are entitled to it, and are disappointed and irritated when it is withheld and almost hostile to it. This is the highest tribute to its independence and honesty. Now, ladies and gentlemen, the time is waning and I must not protract these remarks. I can only join in the hope that has been expressed that, for the century to come, the prosperity of the Evening Post may equal, may exceed, that which it has been in the past.” [Great applause.]

In introducing the next speaker Mr. Schurz said :

“ It may not be esteemed presumptuous in a presiding officer if he adds one single word more to the eloquent speech of Mr. Carter. One of the principal virtues of the Evening Post has been its courage, its fearlessness—that is to say, it has not only not been afraid of its opponents, but it has not been afraid of its friends. [Applause.] And now I have the honor to introduce, after we have heard from the old and the present generation of the conductors of the Evening Post, to introduce a gentleman who represents the future, and who I have no doubt will in the time to come uphold the great ideas which have prevailed in the time past, Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard.”

Mr. Villard responded :

“ Mr. Chairman : I welcome the opportunity to speak for the younger men of the Evening Post, and to express for them our deep gratitude for this astounding tribute to the work of the men who have gone before. For some of

us, for two or three of us here, this tribute has especial significance and meaning. We would be so bold as to appropriate a little of it for one who is no longer here, but one who made the reorganization of the paper possible in 1881 (Mr. Henry Villard). He first showed his patriotism for his adopted country upon the first field of Bull Run, upon the shot-swept bridge of Fredericksburg, and upon the blood-stained deck of the *Ironsides*, and later took the opportunity to which I have already referred to give proof of his undying and unbounded love for his adopted country. [Applause.]

"I, like Mr. Garrison, would take this opportunity to pay my small tribute to Mr. Godkin. It was my fortune to be in the office for but a short part of the time of Mr. Godkin's editorship, but, though it was short, it was precious beyond words. For what memories could a young man engaged in journalism take through life with him which would be more inspiring than those of Mr. Godkin's splendid courage, his unswerving fidelity to his ideals, and his splendid abilities? I well remember with what zest and keen humor he used to repeat a story that at one time went the rounds of the press from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again; that in the morning, when he called the editorial staff together to consult as to the day's editorials, he opened the proceedings by making them sing 'God Save the Queen.' I do not think that anything said about him in his whole career amused him so much, or amused the staff more, who knew that the only thing which actuated Mr. Godkin in his editorial policy throughout his career was his desire to be of service to the United States [applause] and to keep it true to its highest and best ideals, to make it a country to be proud of at any and all times.

"Mr. Garrison has said that Mr. Godkin was the Evening Post, but, though a great editor may be essential to a great newspaper, I would ask you to give part of your kindly thoughts to-day to the men under the great editor, without whose loyalty and devotion a great newspaper would, I think, not be possible. I wish that you might all be with us this evening at the dinner to the employees of the Evening Post, to see what a splendid set of men they are. We think that they are as self-respecting, efficient, self-reliant, and manly American workmen as can be found anywhere. There is no page in our anniversary number which is more interesting than that which bears the pictures of three of the oldest and most valued employees of our composing-room; one who has been with us sixty years, and there are two others, not pictured, who are now near the fiftieth year of their continuous service on the Evening Post. [Applause.]

"Without such loyalty, without such devotion, surely the Evening Post could not have been the consistently conscientious newspaper which it has been for one hundred years. And the same is true of the junior editors, and I may say this without immodesty, because, with one exception, I am the youngest on the staff in point of service here to-day, and what I have done is so far too

little to mention. With hardly an exception these junior editors have upheld the hands of the men whose names you have heard—Mr. Coleman, Mr. Leggett, Mr. Godwin, Mr. Godkin, and Mr. Schurz, and all the rest, and I am sure that I am not going too far when I ask you to think of them also on this memorable occasion.

“He would be rash indeed who would prophesy the future of a newspaper. But as Mr. Schurz has said that I would speak for the younger element and for the future, I would simply give expression here to the feeling of confidence in the future which we have, and which has been so greatly strengthened by this magnificent assembly. It is not only that the political conditions of the city and State are so hopeful, and that the growth of the independent spirit has been so remarkable, as was demonstrated by the last election. There is a public readiness to consider questions apart from party interests greater, I think, than could have been noticed by any of the previous editors of the Evening Post, and this state of affairs is in itself an incentive to the conductors of the Evening Post when they face towards the future. The Evening Post recognizes, too, the great opportunities which the present situation affords for constructive criticism. There never was, we believe, a time when more could be done to advance the genuine interests of the city than at the present moment. The Evening Post has never lost its abiding faith in American institutions, and I can say for the present management that, so long as it is in control, it never will lose that faith in the inherent righteousness of the American people and in the lasting nature of their institutions. [Applause.]

“As in the past when it has discussed public issues, it will be as ‘harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice,’ but it will strive, as it is striving to-day, not to confuse measures and motives, and to be as judicial and as impartial as possible, in accordance with its traditions to which you have done honor to-day.”

Mr. Schurz then introduced Mr. Andrew Carnegie, as follows :

“I have now the honor to introduce a gentleman well known to you all, who has, indeed, not invented the art of making money, but who has invented the art of spending money on the greatest of scales, who is in a fair way of making an incredulous public actually believe that he was in earnest when he said it was a disgrace to die rich—a gentleman who has already made himself a benefactor of the age, and, I may add, the chief librarian of the universe.”

Mr. Carnegie replied :

“Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Evening Post : The pen is not only mightier than the sword, and destined to supersede it, but the one is

modest in the extreme, while the other is ever vainglorious. It is to all of your admirers here, I am sure, an extreme pleasure to have an opportunity face to face to express their grateful thanks to you, the unheralded, unsung, and publicly unknown soldiers of the pen, who so completely merge your individuality in the great campaign you courageously lead against all that debases and in support of all that elevates human society. To whom among you and in what measure we who have read the Evening Post from youth to age are indebted for the good fruits of its various fields we can never know, for while you are always willing and even anxious to advertise the works of others, the staff never advertises itself—so different this from the military spirit exemplified by Hotspur, who could pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon only 'if he might without co-rival wear all its dignities.' You care not for these baubles, but find your noble reward in the knowledge of useful work performed.

"I know of no calling, not even the highest, more truly sanctified by the supreme virtue of self-abnegation, or where there is more of the spirit of the devotee—

'Whether I stand or crownless fall,  
It matters not, so good work be done'—

than that of the staff of a newspaper like the Evening Post.

"To its owners we desire also to express our gratitude in no stinted terms. I am glad to hear the names of Garrison and Villard here to-day—worthy sons of worthy sires. Through good and ill, from the start till now, the pecuniary results of the work have never been allowed to dominate, but ever held subordinate to the duty of upholding what was seen to be right; no pandering to the popular phrases of the day to increase the profits. In the whole range of philanthropy there is nothing more truly beneficent, nothing done in the truer sense for the good of others, no greater service possible to render man, than to stand unflinchingly for the right, or what seems to be the right, regardless of pelf. The sacrifice made by the owners of the Evening Post in this direction ranks with any gift for public ends made by any citizen of New York during these years, and I hail the fortunate and patriotic proprietors as philanthropists of the first rank.

"There are, broadly, two classes of newspapers. The London Times represents one, which plays the part of a political barometer, and, whatever government is in power, as long as it has overwhelming public opinion behind it, we see the Times its powerful organ. Its name describes it. The other class aims to form and lead, and not to follow, public opinion; to lead it and keep it in the path which carries man upward, preaching always that righteousness which alone exalteth a nation.

"We all have reason to know to which class belongs the great organ of public opinion which we are met to honor. It has been, and it is, and we fondly trust always will be, to us and to all the country, not a barometer, but

a compass pointing steadily to the true path which points to the shining stars of higher civilization—to an improved human society.

“Nor must we forget what we all owe to it for its immaculate purity. Not the least important of its many precious services has lain in this, that to the depraved curiosity which seeks gratification in groping among the putrid stuff of the gutter, the *Evening Post* is no ministrant, its columns being filled with pure and higher matter.

“In its literary department the *Evening Post* has been true to its prospectus of this day, 1801. It promised to devote itself to the spread of sound literature. Probably no newspaper in our country has exerted so great and so beneficent an influence in this branch as it has, and here again the trashy, immoral, vile, but fortunately ephemeral stuff, which is such a demoralizing agency of our day, is eschewed by it as unworthy of its columns. For this genuine service to the community, thanks.

“We ask ourselves from whence comes the position occupied by the *Evening Post*, and the answer is, because of the men, our guests, before us. They write what they feel to be true; they are honest and speak their own sentiments; and the air of earnest sincerity exerts a power which nothing else can give. We see behind every article a personality, a man speaking, not what is popular or profitable to write, but what he believes, and the man behind the gun is not relatively more important than the man behind the pen.

“We celebrate to-day the first century of this honest, pure, and fearless organ of public opinion. What it was at first it is now, and what it is now we trust it is to be upon the second centenary; and while the tribute similar to this which will be given on that occasion may exceed this in numbers as much as this does its jubilee meeting, yet I make bold to say, gentlemen of the *Evening Post*, a more truly representative meeting of New York’s best citizens, or one more deeply appreciative or more grateful for your labors, cannot possibly be assembled a century hence in your honor. Nor can the *Evening Post* then deserve a greater tribute, for the highest truth it has seen it has clearly proclaimed, knowing thereby that it does its best in this world; it has stood, and to-day stands for whatsoever things are true, for whatsoever things are pure, for whatsoever things are of good report.

“A higher standard than this it is impossible to attain.

“Receive, then, our renewed deep and heartfelt thanks, with our earnest wish for a continuance over successive centuries of your past career of fruitful usefulness and untarnished honor.”

Mr. Schurz then said :

“I have in my hand a card from Professor Moore, of Columbia University, formulating a dispatch to Mr. Godkin in England. It reads : ‘Represent-

atives of divers and important interests of the country, assembled to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Evening Post, send cordial greetings of respect and friendship.' It has been suggested that this cablegram be sent to Mr. Godkin to inform him of the esteem and admiration of the guests assembled here. All those in favor of such a telegram being sent will signify it by saying aye."

It was unanimously carried. Mr. Schurz then resumed:

"Mr. White has spoken of the financial interests. I shall now call upon Mr. Joseph C. Hendrix, a representative banker, to express his sentiments upon that point."

Mr. Hendrix spoke as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I am sure it will gratify you at this hour to reflect that the banking vocabulary is a limited one. We cannot use language like the devotees of literature and of law and of journalism. It seems in the presence of Scotchmen like Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Kennedy to be wasteful. We can simply say, yes and no. The important part which the banking interests of the city of New York, and, indeed, of the whole country, have played in the constituency of the Evening Post has been indicated by a very emphatic 'Yes.' Whatever differences the readers of the Evening Post may have with the editors, they are all resolved into harmony when they come to the financial page. There it is always afternoon. The quotations are accurate, the transcripts of the market are carefully made; there is no color, no influence. There is no point about which to differ, for it is all simply a faithful chronicle of the times. With that tribute it is fitting to close, and so I will, with one additional thought. Mr. Garrison has very eloquently alluded to the thirty years' war which Mr. Godkin conducted on behalf of civil-service reform. We of the commercial world would add laurels to Mr. E. L. Godkin; we admire him; we consider that he was a great meteor passing across the sky to become a fixed planet forever, to beam upon all those who love literature and good English. We honor the history of William Cullen Bryant, and of the great editors like Bigelow and Schurz, and, in the older days, Coleman. But, ladies and gentlemen, it is easy to write epitaphs; a great many men are anxious to write epitaphs; in fact, epitaphs would come easy to the pen of a great many of these editors. As Mr. Hewitt suggested while he was here, with his usual incandescence, we want to preserve Mr. Carnegie from his epitaph until his last cent expires. But eulogy, the opportunity for eulogy is yet present, and I want to speak it for just a moment. While Mr. Godkin's strife in the thirty years' war for civil-service reform is very laudable, let me



say from the banking world, from that dry and serious plane of life, which is not phosphorescent and very rarely takes a chance to say anything, that we recognize and appreciate the service to this country of the luminous editorial writer in all of the fight for the preservation and final adoption, and the perfect maintenance of the gold standard in this country—Mr. Horace White. [Applause.]

“There has never been such turbulent economic thinking in the course of the world’s history as that which we have known in the past two generations. We have seen a whole nation—a free, independent, vigorous, self-assertive people—attacking an economic question, and with the bravery and audacity with which the American people take up great questions. First, the question of the greenbacks; then in all its collateral issues the depreciated silver dollar, then international bimetallism, and various suggestions of ratios, until finally the victory was won in behalf of the gold standard, bringing us into relation with all of the civilization of the earth; and throughout all these days we had the patient schoolmaster, who without harangue, without any attempted eloquence, sat upon his editorial tripod, and attacked one fallacy after another, as it made its appearance in public debate and public discussion, and saw the full effulgence of the victory, and did not once say, ‘Throw a rose at me.’ [Applause.]

“It has been my fortune, ladies and gentlemen, to know of the value of this gentleman’s work, and to be able to measure it. It is my privilege and my honor to be able here in behalf not only of the bankers of New York, but in behalf of the bankers of the United States, to testify [turning to Mr. White] to your splendid services in the final establishment of the gold standard in this country.” [Applause.]

Mr. Schurz again took the floor :

“We have among us one of the highest spiritual dignitaries in this country, whose presence may be esteemed an especial distinction. I have the honor of calling upon his Grace, Archbishop Corrigan.” [Applause.]

Archbishop Corrigan responded :

“Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I thank you cordially for the honor of sharing in your commemoration of so interesting an event as the Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Evening Post. In our young Republic an existence for a hundred years is a notable span of life, especially in a case like this which records the wondrous growth of that century and the gigantic development of the power of the Press. To estimate this growth, we must bear in mind the almost incredible advance both in the increased facilities

of printing, as in the means of attaining news by wire and telephone, in addition to the ease and rapidity of communication by steam with the entire world. It is not so long ago—before the laying of the Atlantic cable—that we used to be regaled with the gratifying intelligence of ‘Five days’ later news from Europe.’

“Nowhere in the world has the Press found a larger or more receptive audience than on our shores. Here every one reads; every one, even the poorest, is rich enough to buy the daily papers; here more than elsewhere, in our characteristic hurry to save time and labor, we are willing to allow others to do our thinking, and to serve us not only with the daily history of the world, but with lines of thought and suggestions of conduct ready for instant use. As there is to-day no power on earth like the power of the Press, so the temptation to abuse that tremendous force, or to use it less wisely, must of necessity often present itself, and even at times, in most alluring and seductive mien; and consequently so much the greater is the praise and merit of those who, having the power to do both good and evil, strive to use it only for beneficent purposes and for the advancement and welfare of their fellow-men.

“It is greatly to the credit of the Evening Post that such high aims have been its inspiration; that, avoiding the siren voice of sordid gain and sensationalism, it has ever kept before its view the motto of our Empire State, ‘*Excelsior*’; that, courteous in dealing with those who hold different views, and willing to hear their reasons, it has constantly endeavored to promote morality, good citizenship, and good government; and therefore let us cordially trust that the first century of its existence is but the prelude to a still brighter era of usefulness and prosperity; let us hope and trust that Providence may bless its every effort for good, and the old Horatian wish, expressed in his century ode, may be verified in its regard :

‘*Alterum in lustrum, meliusque semper,  
Prorogat ævum.*’ ”

Mr. Schurz here called upon the Secretary, Mr. Frank J. Mather, to read some of the letters which had been received. Mr. Mather said :

“There was one name which perhaps more than any other touched the hearts of every member of the Committee and of every member of the staff, the name of the gentleman whose personality and career had done as much as any other in this great community to justify the existence of the Evening Post, and to illustrate the force and power of its teachings; and when this list was made up it was considered that that name, notwithstanding some recent events in which there have been some frank differences of opinion, was indispensable to this list. It was the name of Edward M. Shepard. I wish to read a letter from Mr. Shepard.

“ ‘ No. 172 Congress Street,

“ ‘ BROOKLYN, November 15, 1901.

“ ‘ DEAR MR. MATHER: I am very glad to join with you and the others in the invitation to the Evening Post editorial staff. I should have communicated with you earlier but for my absence from town during a week past. My engagements are such as to make it impracticable for me to be present at the luncheon, although for many reasons I should have rejoiced to be there.

“ ‘ I shall always be glad to express, as in the past, and even during wide differences between the Evening Post and myself, I have expressed my appreciation of the extraordinary service it has rendered to American public life. No account of New York, and, indeed, no account of the United States, would be complete without a tribute to the steadfastness of the Evening Post in holding up a high standard, both morally and intellectually—not only to those who directly read it, but to the far larger number to whom its light came through the medium of other journals. Its services in the very early days of the anti-slavery movement when William Leggett was its editor, its services during the civil war, and since then to the civil-service reform cause—all of these services, so conspicuous and fruitful, were but illustrations of its beneficent work. Other great services were in causes with which we are less familiar or causes which are still the subject of political differences among admirers of the Evening Post. Like the rest of us, the Evening Post has, no doubt, sometimes rejoiced to be in majorities; but it has very many times and far more often than the rest of us showed undoubted courage when such courage was rare in facing popular hostility, or what is still more difficult to face, that hostility of men who in general sympathies belong to our own class. I shall read it, I fancy, as long as I live, though I shall probably wish in the future as I have wished in the past to have power to alter or temper some of its utterances. But even if in the future, more often than in the past, to read it shall be to me a shirt of Nessus, I hope and trust, and with the utmost earnestness, that it may, nevertheless, persist, and resolutely, in the same general course of editorial comment which has been so tonical to the intellectual and moral life of our country and so helpful to its best interests.

“ ‘ Very truly yours,  
(Signed) “ ‘ EDWARD M. SHEPARD.’ ”

Mr. Mather then read three letters more:

“ ‘ No. 48 West Fifty-ninth Street,

“ ‘ October 28, 1901.

“ ‘ DEAR MR. MATHER: I am sorry I cannot promise myself the pleasure of coming to the Evening Post dinner. The Evening Post people are all my

very good friends, and I honor their virtue and integrity. But I cannot make a speech, and public dinners always spoil one of my precious rest days, now growing fewer and fewer.

Yours sincerely,

“ ‘ W. D. HOWELLS.’ ”

“ ‘ NEW YORK, November 16, 1901. ”

“ ‘ MY DEAR MR. WHITE: I am sincerely sorry to find at the last moment that, through a confusion of dates, I am engaged at the same hour to-morrow for the luncheon in honor of the Evening Post and at a luncheon for a considerable number of guests at my own house in the country ! ”

“ ‘ The thirty-five or forty years during which you and I have rubbed along in political disagreement and personal regard make so considerable a part of the period during which the Evening Post and the Tribune have sustained similar relations, that it is a serious disappointment to me to find that I cannot properly be with you to-morrow. I wanted to show by personal presence my high esteem for the great services and noble record of the Evening Post. ”

“ ‘ Under William Cullen Bryant I knew it well, and I was proud in those days to be honored with his friendship, and that of his associates, John Bigelow and Parke Godwin. When you and Villard and Schurz came in, the old traditions were safe. From my point of view, you were pretty sure to be often perversely and pertinaciously wrong on non-essentials; but when it came to the greater matters, we couldn't have helped being together if we had tried. ”

“ ‘ I am glad you are here to celebrate the hundredth anniversary, and only wish poor Villard were with you. May you live as long as you can enjoy it; and, if it still makes you happy, may you continue to preach Free Trade every day to the end! ”

“ ‘ With cordial regard, and all good wishes, I am,

“ ‘ Very sincerely yours,

“ ‘ WHITELAW REID.’ ”

“ ‘ November 12, 1901. ”

“ ‘ DEAR SIR: I regret that my engagements make it impossible for me to take part in the complimentary luncheon to be given to the editors, officers, and trustees of the Evening Post, in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the foundation of that journal. ”

“ ‘ I hope, however, that I may be permitted to convey, through you, my congratulations to these gentlemen upon the long, useful, and honorable career of the Evening Post. In particular, I should like to recognize in the fullest manner the very effective and admirable service it has rendered in the municipal campaign just closed. I trust that the future of the paper may be ”

worthy of its past, and that it may enter with the new century upon a career of still greater usefulness.

“ ‘Yours very truly,

“ ‘SETH LOW.

“ ‘Mr. F. J. Mather, Secretary, No. 67 Wall St., New York.’ ”

President J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University, was next introduced, and spoke as follows :

“ Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen : So much has already been said, and so admirably said, in appreciation and praise of the spirit and work of the Evening Post, that I believe it almost impossible to add anything to the general summary. I thought, however, that, instead of making any formal address on the topics which, so far as I am concerned, have already been exhausted, you would permit me at this late hour to record one or two impressions which the Evening Post makes upon me, an old and constant reader.

“ I am struck when I read the Evening Post—and I count no day complete when I do not read the Evening Post—I am struck with an intellectual quality in its articles, which, however ably other papers be conducted, I find nowhere else. I ask myself what it is, and I perceive that the style is admirable; that the writers are steeped in literature, and have the gift of expressing themselves with force, grace, and eloquence; but that does not seem to exhaust the analysis. Somehow the editorials of the Evening Post remind me of the investigations of the historian or the experiments of the scientist; the writer is in the pursuit of truth, he is not retailing what is already established because his paper is committed to it, nor is he praising some popular idol, who leads some triumphant party; he is, as Carlyle would say, in quest of ‘ the everlasting truth.’ ”

“ And the Evening Post brings to bear upon this operation the methods of the investigator and of the experimenter. It insists on studying causes and tracing their effects; and it works back from effect to cause. If, as Mr. Hendrix has said this afternoon, and said truly, the editorials in the Evening Post have been the most valuable contribution made to the literature of the currency issue, it is because the currency question was taken back to such ultimate facts as the nature of the crust of the earth, the character of man, and the present industrial and financial development of the United States. You may find these characteristics to some extent in other papers, but nowhere do I find them so admirably developed and illustrated as in the Evening Post. [Applause.] ”

“ Then, again, I am always impressed with the fact that the Evening Post stands for principles and ideals, and recognizes principles and ideals as the supreme thing in life. This is a matter of the first importance in an age of colossal wealth, illustrations of which, sir, we have had in this room to-day.

The Evening Post has always insisted that life, whether in its individual or national character, consists not in the abundance of possessions, but in moral and intellectual aspiration and achievement. The Evening Post's idols have not been men of wealth or men of power; its heroes have been the brave, the true, the honest, the valorous. I esteem it, sir, an inestimable boon, not only to this city and to this State, but to this nation, that we have a paper which so conspicuously illustrates the supremacy of moral ideals and intellectual attainments. And what the Evening Post has done for the individual life, it has done on a grand scale for the national life. Others have clamored for increase of territory, for enlargement of army or navy—the Evening Post has preached that righteousness which alone exalteth a nation. [Applause.] And, superior even as the Evening Post has been, it has never lost faith in the essential goodness of humanity. It has appealed from the passion of to-day to the sounder brain of to-morrow; it has known and felt that the heart of man was deeper than the purse of man. [Applause.]

“I don't say, sir, that in my opinion the Evening Post has been always right. Sometimes I have presumed to differ from it, and, like others who have spoken to-day, I have at such times suffered chastisement at its hands, whether righteous or not it would scarcely be becoming in me to say. But all institutions have their imperfections, and even the Evening Post has the defects of its quality.

“Dr. Johnson said: ‘I love a good hater.’ How that elephantine, tea-drinking Englishman would have clasped to his bosom the author of some of the fierce articles I have read in the Evening Post! [Applause.]

“In my opinion, the Evening Post has not at all times done perfect justice to all the men whom it criticised in its columns. In its admirable devotion to ideals and principles of the highest kind, I think it has sometimes failed to realize the impossibility of carrying them out immediately. Still it is a great thing, as our friend Mr. Carter has said, to have in the community an organ which stands for principles. And I want to bear testimony to the fact that even when I have thought the Evening Post somewhat premature in laying down principles, its criticisms have helped none the less in effecting reforms. Take one example. The Evening Post has insisted in the past that football was a brutal game and should be abolished. Now if I had not been here to-day I should have been watching the game between Columbia and Cornell up-town. But I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that it is because the Evening Post did denounce so unsparingly the roughness and even the brutality of what it used to call ‘these gladiatorial contests,’ that it has been possible for our colleges and universities to effect the reform that has been effected in recent years and make the sport one for gentlemen. Or I will take a more serious example. I believe that there is not now, and there never was, any individual or set of individuals in the Philippine Islands to whom the United States could

have delegated the sovereignty over that archipelago which devolved upon us as a result of the war with Spain; but while I believe that to be the fact, I want to say that the opposition of the Evening Post to expansion in Asia has been productive of great good, and will undoubtedly help to save us, if we are in danger, from the disasters which overtook the Roman republic when it began to govern distant colonies by pro-consuls. And so I may say that so sound and true are the principles of the Evening Post, that, even when they are infected with too much disregard of existing facts and conditions, and while, perhaps, not contributing to the solution of the problem in hand, they are valuable for admonition and discipline, and may be valuable even for inspiration and encouragement.

"I find fault with the Evening Post, Mr. Chairman, because it is too good. I hear 'Oh, oh,' but more than one speaker has said here to-day that the Evening Post did his thinking, and he was allowing his cerebral functions to fall into desuetude. That is a calamity. But seriously the Evening Post is too good. Its work is so well done that we are all too ready to look up to it and let it do our thinking for us, and, if perchance we sometimes think for ourselves—well, I know the educated men of the country, and I say they are really afraid of the Evening Post. [Applause.] When we agree with it it is all right, but if an educated man differs from the Evening Post, he is afraid of his life that he has gone wrong.

"So we meet to celebrate a centennial. All readers of the Evening Post in our several lines, we have come to wish it Godspeed. The friend alike of the thinker, the scholar, and the teacher; the fellow-laborer with the preacher and the prophet and the seer; the standard-bearer of justice and liberty and civic righteousness; the instructor of the educated men who shape public opinion, whereby the republic is ruled: may the Evening Post, rich in a centennial harvest of splendid service to America, continue to instruct, aye, and to exhort and admonish, our children and our children's children, and remain always what it is to-day, a leading and illustrious organ and exponent of American ideals, American civilization, and American institutions." [Applause.]

Mr. Schurz said in introducing Dr. Patton :

"Ladies and Gentlemen: We shall hear a voice from New Jersey, from a gentleman who stands at the head of an institution which is one of the principal honors of that State, Dr. Patton, President of Princeton University."

President Patton responded :

"Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: I prize the distinction of being allowed on this occasion to say just a single word in honor of a great newspaper

whose journalistic career is to-day one hundred years old. In the field of influence open to it there is a place, and I suppose, perhaps, a legitimate place, for different kinds of newspapers. As has been already said, there are partisan papers, and then there are independent papers; there are papers that accurately record the fluctuations of public opinion, and there are those which seek to shape public opinion; there are those which adapt themselves to the public taste, and there are those which strive to elevate that taste; there are papers which know what the public likes and which try to suit it, and there are papers which think they know what the public ought to like and which try to teach it. [Applause.] And so we are in this way brought face to face with a contest which presents itself so often in life between the actual and the ideal. Living in a world of ideals is hard business. Virtue's reward, as expressed in the current coin of the republic, is, I regret to say, quantitatively less sometimes than we could desire. Still, I imagine that there is a certain degree of satisfaction in feeling that one is leading a forlorn hope, conscientiously willing to occupy a lonely place, courageously saying one's say, regardless of consequences. I do not suppose that our presence here this afternoon implies that we agree in every respect with all the utterances of the Evening Post. When it falls to the Evening Post to tell its side, we are sure that it will speak with clearness and with cogency. The Evening Post, whether we agree with it or whether we differ with it, we must always recognize and honor for the dogged determination with which it maintains its own convictions, for the relentless logic and for the masterful knowledge of the facts with which it defends them. Men of this world, and communities too, are too apt to follow the line of least resistance, too apt to consider gain and glory rather than right and duty. It is a very hard thing for the individual to sacrifice advantage, personal advantage, for public welfare, and it is, perhaps, still a harder thing for the man who has succeeded in making that sacrifice to realize that it is only a doubtful public welfare after all which is promoted at the cost of fundamental moral principles; but unless all standards are worthless, unless all law is custom, unless all morality resolves itself into etiquette, unless good form be understood as the ideal of social existence, there must be somewhere an obligatory ideal, and, although it may sometimes seem as though that ideal had to succumb under the pressure of hard fact, as though the imperious ought was obliged to capitulate to the mighty is, unless conscience remains a factor in human life, and while she keeps her place, the newspaper which is willing to speak with Nathan-like directness and plainness of speech and say, 'Thou art the man,' is a moral power of inestimable value to any community.

"Now I verily believe that there is no correct art of living unless there be a true theory of living. Public morals and pure politics are at bottom matters of philosophy—I would not hesitate to go further and say matters of metaphysics. Intellectual enlightenment and moral quickening are the con-



ditions precedent of any reform. I venture to say that the public agencies for moral regeneration are conspicuously the university, the pulpit, and the press. I will not undertake to dictate to the pulpit or the press its duties, but I do venture the assertion that the university, however great or old or wealthy it may be, which does not lay broadly and deeply the foundations for a sense of civic responsibility in ample historical knowledge and profound philosophic reflection is not doing its duty by the State. [Applause.] Whether it be the duty of the university to discuss, and then enunciate, and whether it be the duty of the pulpit and the press afterwards to apply to practical issues, I do not attempt to say, but I do believe that there never was a greater demand for both theory and practice, for both principle and its practical application to moral issues, than at this present moment. We are face to face with certain social conditions. I believe that it is the duty of the press to help us to deal with these conditions, both in the matter of diagnosis and in the matter of therapeutics, to tell us exactly what is the matter, to put its finger on the place and say, Thou aildest here and here, and having rightly diagnosed the difficulty, to proceed at once to its treatment, and when that treatment is decided upon, I imagine it will be found to reside not in indifference, not in a laissez-faire willingness to fall back upon the rude surgery of nature, not in rash resort to organized authority from legislation and paternalism; nor is it to be found in a contagion, a spasmodic contagion, of moral earnestness now and then, but it is to be found in clear, discriminating thinking, in constant vigilance, and in the practical application on the part of the individual of moral principles to the issues with which we have to deal. It is in the light of such considerations as these that I have great pleasure in joining those who have already spoken this afternoon in extending congratulations to the Evening Post on its century of successful work and service, and in the expression of the further hope that its future may be characterized by that high intellectual ability, that unshaken courage, that unswerving devotion to what it believes to be right, which have been the conspicuous attributes of the past." [Applause.]

Mr. Schurz said :

"It is my very pleasant duty to ask a vote of thanks to the Committee who have arranged this tribute for this centennial anniversary, and for the successful conducting of it."

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Brownell then addressed the Chair :

"Mr. Chairman, some of us silent worshippers of the Evening Post ask leave to join with Mayor Hewitt in the expression which he has made of the

feelings of the guests assembled here, and I offer a resolution, if I may be heard:

“Resolved, That the thanks of the hosts and guests on this unique occasion be presented to the Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, our chairman and speaker, for his kindly and genial expression of the sentiments and feeling represented by this testimonial.”

The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. Schurz closed the meeting as follows :

“Now it is my duty to adjourn this meeting, which I have no doubt we have all enjoyed to the bottom of our hearts. It was a great privilege to pay this tribute to a century of honorable and useful achievements, and to express the wish that the institution whose birthday we celebrate will continue in its beneficent career for more centuries to come. We separate with the feeling that this occasion has been an inspiration to all of us for all our days to come.”

The following letters were also received but not read :

November 12, 1901.

F. J. MATHER, ESQ., New York City.

MY DEAR SIR: Highly esteeming the opportunity to be one of the guests at the luncheon, and to assist in paying a proper tribute to the very extraordinary, perhaps unparalleled, career of the Evening Post, a paper that I have read regularly for more than a third of its existence, I regret to have to say that an engagement in the West, which begins before and does not conclude until after the date set, will prevent me from being present.

Truly yours,

J. M. BUCKLEY.

29 Lafayette Place,  
NEW YORK, November, 8, 1901.

F. J. MATHER, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR: On the date named in your note of the 6th instant I shall be absent on duty in Ohio.

I beg you to accept my hearty congratulations for those whom you represent, and all good wishes for the future.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. POTTER.

St. Bartholomew's Rectory,  
No. 342 Madison Avenue,  
November 8, 1901.

MR. F. J. MATHER, Secretary.

MY DEAR SIR: It is with the greatest regret that I find myself unable, because of a previous engagement, to accept the kind invitation of yourself and others to be present at the complimentary luncheon to be given to the editorial staff and officers of the Evening Post, on November 16, at 1:30 o'clock.

I would be glad, indeed, to show by my presence on that occasion my appreciation of the good work which the Evening Post has done throughout its whole career, for ethics and civics, as well as for its high literary standard. It certainly deserves recognition and encouragement from all who appreciate high ideals in journalism; and it is, as I have said above, with the greatest regret that an imperative engagement prevents me from accepting the kind invitation of the Committee.

Very truly yours,  
DAVID H. GREER.

President's Office, Johns Hopkins University,  
BALTIMORE, November 8, 1901.

President Remsen regrets that he will be unable to avail himself of the courteous invitation of the Committee to be present at the complimentary luncheon extended to the Evening Post, Saturday, November 16. He would be glad to join the Committee in doing honor to those who, through sunshine and through storm, hold aloft the standard of clean journalism.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,  
November 9, 1901.

F. J. MATHER, Esq., Secretary, New York.

DEAR SIR: I greatly regret that a long-standing engagement prevents me from accepting the invitation with which I have been honored by the Committee in charge to be present at the complimentary luncheon, to be offered to the conductors of the Evening Post, on the 16th of November.

I should be glad, were I able, to join in this testimonial to the service which the Evening Post has rendered during the past century to civilization in America.

Faithfully yours,  
CHARLES ELIOT NORTON.

November 8, 1901.

MY DEAR SIR: It will give me great pleasure, if my health permits, to take part in the reception to be given to the managers of the Even-

ing Post. That journal, by the fidelity with which it has adhered to the principles of policy laid down by its greatest editor, Mr. William Cullen Bryant, and the ability and character which it has brought to its discussions highly deserves the admiration and gratitude of the community.

Yours truly,  
PARKE GODWIN.

November 16, 1901.

MY DEAR MR. MATHER: Most newspapers are like "revolving lights"—every now and then they leave us in the dark. The Evening Post, for a full century, has shone clear. My personal sense of obligation to the Post is very real and deep, and I wish that I could testify it by being present at the luncheon this noon. Unfortunately, the invitation did not reach me until late yesterday, and I find it impossible to revise plans previously formed for to-day.

Yours faithfully,  
W. R. HUNTINGTON.

Pine Street, corner of Pearl Street.

MR. F. J. MATHER, Secretary, No. 67 Wall Street.

DEAR SIR: I have your invitation to attend the complimentary luncheon which is to be tendered to the Evening Post on Saturday next. I should be delighted to take part in this testimonial to the Evening Post, and, therefore, regret very much that I shall not be able to be present on that interesting occasion.

Yours very truly,  
WILLIAM B. DANA.

November 8, 1901.

NEW YORK, November 12, 1901.

133 East Thirty-fifth Street.

MR. F. J. MATHER, Secretary.

DEAR SIR: I have tried to arrange to accept the courteous invitation tendered me for the 16th inst., but am unable to accomplish it. I regret this deeply, for I would have been glad to emphasize *visita voce* what I put upon paper a few days ago for the centennial issue of the Evening Post.

Yours very sincerely,  
C. H. PARKHURST.

November 9, 1901.

DEAR MR. MATHER: I am much gratified to be included among those who are invited to the luncheon which is to be given next Saturday. I cannot

positively promise to be present, but I expect to be in New York Friday night and if I can I will go down to the luncheon. With continued regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

D. C. GILMAN.

No. 25 West Forty-seventh Street,

November 10, 1901.

MY DEAR MR. LEWIS: I regard it as a privilege to join in the complimentary luncheon to the Evening Post.

I have always known and experienced that the Evening Post could be depended upon to champion the right on all public questions. It has never sought the roads that lead to preferment. It has at all times sacrificed large personal interests and upheld principle. It is fitting to honor the brave men connected with the Evening Post.

Hastily yours,

CHARLES STEWART SMITH.

The following trustees, editors, publisher, and counsel of the staff of the Evening Post were the guests of honor at the luncheon:

Horace White, Wendell Phillips Garrison, Charles A. Spofford, Harold G. Villard, Oswald G. Villard, Edward P. Clark, Rollo Ogden, J. Ranken Towse, F. J. Mather, Jr., H. Parker Willis, Hammond Lamont, Edward Payson Call, William J. Boies, Henry T. Finck, Arthur F. J. Crandall, Alexander D. Noyes, Franklin Clarkin, Josiah T. Newcomb, Francis E. Leupp, Philip G. Hubert, Jr., Lawrence Godkin.

The invited guests were the following:

Rev. Francis L. Patton, President of Princeton University, Hon. J. G. Schurman, President of Cornell University, Archbishop Corrigan, Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., Adolph S. Ochs, Edward Cary, St. Clair McKelway, John W. Dodsworth, Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D., Hon. John Bigelow, Hon. Carl Schurz, Hon. Whitelaw Reid, Daniel C. Gilman, LL. D., Hon. Seth Low, Parke Godwin, Rev. David H. Greer, Prof. Chas. Sprague Smith, Arthur T. Hadley, President of Yale University, Ira Remsen, President of Johns Hopkins University, Charles Eliot Norton, Rev. John W. Chadwick, James B. Reynolds, Rev. James M. Buckley, D. D., William A. Linn, Philip McK. Garrison.

## MR. GODKIN'S GREETING.

“I regret that I cannot do more than send this line of Godspeed to the paper into which I put so many of the best years and best endeavors of my life. My recollections of the Evening Post go back to the days of the administration of Mr. John Bigelow, when I wrote one or two articles for it—one, I remember, upon the East India Company, which was then expiring. The press was then very different from what it has since become. But that the Evening Post has, through all its changes of ownership, stood for righteousness and decency is my recollection, and that it may so continue, my hope.

“EDWIN L. GODKIN.

“Torquay, England, November 1.”

